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## Columbia Chronicle (11/09/2015)

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# THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Volume 51, Issue 10

ColumbiaChronicle.com



Sex-positive LGBT  
comics help recognition  
of sexual identity

PAGE 13

Chicagoans protest over  
cuts to social programs

PAGE 33



NOV.  
**9**  
**2015**

## College approves planning, development of new student center

» MEGAN BENNETT  
CAMPUS EDITOR

**DEVELOPMENT OF A** new student center that would provide a multi-purpose space for students to work, relax and collaborate was approved by the college's board of trustees on Oct. 28, according to a notice emailed to faculty and staff on Nov. 5.

The announcement, which came from President and CEO Kwang-Wu Kim, said the center is scheduled to be completed by the Fall 2018 Semester. Kim said this space could include food vendors, collaborative study and hang-out spaces and other items like a health and fitness center.

SEE CENTER, PAGE 4

Papermaker's  
Garden  
8TH STREET AND WABASH AVENUE

» SANTIAGO COVARRUBIAS/CHRONICLE



# Columbia should use its own artists to create student center

» KYRA SENESE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Columbia students have long called for the addition of a student center to the college's otherwise disjointed group of campus buildings, a facet of many other area colleges that proves valuable to uniting the student body and strengthening the overall campus feel.

After years of requests from students that the college's administration make the creation of such a student-focused space a priority, President and CEO Kwang-Wu Kim announced in a Nov. 5 email to faculty and staff that the college's board of trustees voted Oct. 28 to move forward with plans to officially develop a student center at Columbia. As reported in the Front Page story, the announcement states that the proposal for the center's construction, which is set to be built where the Papermaker's Garden is currently located, will be developed through a nine-week project planning phase that begins this month.

"This project is one of the key priorities set out in the Strategic Plan, and it is at the top of our students' collective wish list," Kim's Nov. 5 emailed announcement stated. Discussions about adding a student center to the campus map have been ongoing since Kim began his presidency at the college. As reported by The Chronicle, he discussed the importance of a student-centered space during a Feb. 26, 2014, Coffee with the President forum, which allowed students to express what they would value in a space to gather with their peers.

In the past, students have pointed out the overbooking of other campus spaces like The Loft at 916 S. Wabash Ave., making it crucial that the college take advantage of this opportunity to build Columbia's first official student center. It's a huge step in centralizing Columbia's campus, but it must be done with care and thought about what the students themselves want.

The nine-week project planning phase should reflect participation by both students and the college to ensure it will best serve current and future students, who will hopefully be able to enjoy using it when it is set to open in



the Fall 2018 Semester. One of the main questions regarding the creation of the student center is how it will be funded. Kim's announcement said that the board will be developing the financing strategy while the college community members participate in forums about the intended uses and programming for the space.

However, one of the points the president made at the 2014 Coffee with the President event was that a large part of the planning process for bringing a student center to campus would involve securing adequate funding to finance the project. The college should not only strongly consider the suggestions students make during the nine-week planning phase meetings, but also should invite and encourage students to participate in its creation. An April 2014 opinion piece by The Chronicle suggested the college should look to its own creatives to design the interior and leave the more complex aspects, like engineering, to the industry professionals.

Involving students in the creation of the center in a deeper way than simply inviting them to roundtable discussions would confirm the college's commitment to ensuring it serves students in the ways they care most about. Allowing students to make their mark on the college and participate in such a crucial part of its history would also be a meaningful experience for the college as a whole and would effectively market Columbia's talented students and their artistic abilities.

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» PHOTOS G-JUN YAM/CHRONICLE

Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced Nov. 5 at Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Van Buren St., that five additional colleges, including Columbia, will join the Chicago Stars partnership, a commitment to providing scholarships to Chicago Star scholars.

# Columbia partners with Chicago Stars to further student success

» LAUREN KOSTIUK  
CAMPUS REPORTER

**FIVE ADDITIONAL COLLEGES**, including Columbia, joined the Chicago Star Partnership, as announced Nov. 5 by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and City Colleges of Chicago Chancellor Cheryl Hyman.

The partnership is a commitment of the now 12 four-year colleges and universities dedicated to providing scholarships to Chicago Star scholars following their graduation from City Colleges of Chicago. The scholarships will allow them to go on to earn four-year degrees.

"I wanted to make sure all the institutions of higher learning that call Chicago home, that have their address and their zip code and their identity with Chicago, participated in making sure the future for other students is open, alive and vibrant," Emanuel said.

The University of Chicago, Northwestern University, North Park University and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago were inducted into the partnership, joining previously announced participants DePaul University, Governors State University, the Illinois Institute of Technology, Loyola University, National Louis University, Roosevelt University and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

President and CEO Kwang-Wu Kim said joining the partnership was an easy "yes." With more than 300 City Colleges graduates studying at Columbia, Kim said the program exemplifies Columbia's commitment to providing students with access to educational opportunity.

"We know that the greater the diversity of experience, which characterizes our community, the greater the likelihood our students will be challenged to create new

forms and ideas and dream new dreams—the foundation for their future career success," Kim said.

To qualify, Chicago Public Schools students must graduate with a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale, demonstrate "completion [of college] readiness" with an ACT math and English score of at least 17 and enroll in one of City Colleges of Chicago's structured pathways.

Nearly 1,000 CPS graduates have earned the Chicago Star Scholarship, Hyman said. "Creating this clear path from a high school diploma to a bachelor's degree will assure that Chicagoans have the education to launch careers in fast-growing fields and assure that our city has the trained workforce it needs to continue to thrive," Hyman said.

Keri Walters, assistant provost of Academic Services, said the Star scholarship was already on Columbia's radar because the college has partnered with City Colleges of Chicago on many different initiatives in the past.

"[The program] was sort of a natural progression of events," Walters said. "It allows us to recognize the accomplishments of some of our best students coming from City Colleges in a way that also gives them more affordability to come to Columbia."

The program will help the already

increasing number of transfer students to Columbia, Walters said. In the Fall 2015 Semester, the college had 32 transfer students from City Colleges out of the 815 total transfer students, according to data obtained from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

"Each and every Star scholar that chooses Columbia College Chicago will bring one more unique voice to the rich diverse mix that characterizes our institution," Kim said. "We look forward to welcoming the first class of Star scholars and we stand ready to help them achieve the successes to which they aspire."

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CENTER, FROM FRONT

"The sky's the limit," Kim said in a Nov. 6 interview with The Chronicle. "What's important about this building [is] we don't want it to be a place where the physical spaces predetermine how they're used. Otherwise, we're just building an office building. We want a place where the spaces, as much as possible, are multipurpose."

Dick Kiphart, chairman of the board of trustees, who also participated in the interview, said he is looking forward to providing a center for students, especially commuter students, adding it was important to him that this space will also be available to current first-year students by the time they are seniors.

Kiphart said it is unusual for a college not to have a communal space for students, faculty and staff. "There was very rapid and unanimous approval of this," Kiphart said.

The creation of a student center, which was outlined in the college's Strategic Plan, is something Kim has been asked about since coming to the college in 2013, he said.

"One of the challenges these students face [and] what tends to happen when you're an undergrad is that you end up spending a lot of time wherever your major is, which means a lot of students clump [together] and they don't get to see other students," he said. "The student center is not about majors; it's not about privileging any area of study. I think we can build a series of spaces that promote not just accidental collaboration, but project-based learning, too. To me, it's really exciting."

The college will begin a nine-week planning phase that will include seeking opinions from students, faculty and staff on what they want to be included in the center, according to Kim. During this development and planning, the board is charged with developing a strategy for financing.

An estimate of how much the college will need to spend on the center has not yet been made because plans are still in early development stages, according to college spokeswoman Cara Birch.

Kiphart said because a lot of the

college's financial assets are in real estate, already having the land will help the college as it goes forward with the plans.

"The financial affordability of our real estate situation became much more possible," Kiphart said. "It's something we can do and feel comfortable doing right now."

Kim said there will also be a fundraising component the board will be looking into, which can take off after the development process begins.

The center will be built in the space currently occupied by the Papermaker's Garden at the corner of 8th Street and Wabash Avenue, which Kim said was originally meant to be developed into a student center.

The new center was envisioned that the college would use the Johnson Publishing Building at 820 S. Michigan Ave.—a Columbia-owned office center from the 1970s—for the project, but Kim said it was determined that it would cost too much to update the building's mechanical and energy systems.

Kim said the board still needs to decide what the college will do

with the Johnson Building.

The center will break ground in the space of the garden, but the garden will be relocated elsewhere on campus, according to Melissa Potter, faculty director for the Center for Book, Paper & Print.

Potter said before construction begins, which is slated for the Fall 2016 Semester, the Papermaker's Garden will be moved to share space with the Sculpture Garden at the corner of Wabash Avenue and 11th Street. She added the college has allocated funds to help facilitate the move and will be working with Campus Environment to properly retrofit the space.

David Jones, executive director of the Center for Book, Paper & Print, said there will be challenges in using the Sculpture space because plants used for papermaking need more sun, but Potter said the center's faculty and staff are in negotiations with the college to retrofit the space to make sure their plants grow effectively.

Potter also said the administration discussed the possibility of incorporating the Papermaker's

Garden into the new student center, including a potential rooftop garden or creating space surrounding the center for their plants.

"Columbia is in a time of change, and it is a lot of extra work, but I'm really proud of the fact the school recognizes what the Papermaker's Garden can do circularly for the students, but also what a garden represents," Potter said. "That indicates a strong commitment to a pretty healthy overall environment for the students. I think a new student center is supposed to embody those value systems, too."

Kim said he thinks the student center will improve the overall experience for the college community and added that he is "thrilled" that Kiphart and the board were so receptive to something students have been asking for.

"We still have a lot of work to do to figure out the planning of this," Kim said. "I want our students and everyone to know how committed the board is to this, which means we are going to find a way."

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# Alumna Suzanne Pearman remembered for her gift of words and humor

» **LAUREN KOSTIUK**  
CAMPUS REPORTER

**SUZANNE PEARMAN**, a 2012 cinema art + science alumna, died Oct. 25 at the age of 25.

Pearman was a poet, stand-up comedian, screenwriter, social media expert, humanitarian and filmmaker most recently enrolled in DePaul University's Master of Business Administration program, which she was expected to complete soon. Most of all, she was loved, said her mother, Anne Pearman.

"She was so light, bright and sparkly," Anne Pearman said. "[She was] really entertaining [and] had this amazing laugh."

The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office said the cause and manner of death was pending the results of an investigation as

of press time. Anne Pearman said her daughter's death was a suicide.

"We just want to stand tall and say we loved her so much, and we would've done anything to keep her," Anne Pearman said. "We don't want to hide the way she died because we don't want other families to suffer the difficulties we did in trying to get help for their young adult children."

Suzanne Pearman's work was published in various publications such as New Bile, Voicemail Poems and Spelk Fiction. Her self-published 2013 book, "98% Enemy," was under revision and soon to be released at the time of her death.

She often read her works at venues around Chicago such as The Store, Phyllis's Music Inn and the Elbo Room, and recently started performing stand-up comedy,



» Courtesy ANNE PEARMAN

Suzanne Pearman, a 2012 cinema art + science alumna, died on Oct. 25, according to an online memory page. She recently read some of her work at Columbia, according to Cari Callis, an associate professor in the Cinema Art + Science Department.

"She was on the cusp of having everything she wanted to have," Callis said. "She had really changed her life in the sense she had this new boyfriend, [her] book was coming out, she was going to finish her MBA—it seemed like things were really going her way."

During her senior year, Suzanne Pearman was enrolled in Callis' "Ideation and Theme" class, in which students read each other's body of work and discussed future plans. Callis said after hearing of her former student's death, she dug up her old work and remembered her as a brilliant, insightful and humorous writer, saying she was an artist in the way she lived her life.

"She kept getting better after she graduated," Callis said. "It was like she accelerated [and] made a conscious effort to start getting her work out there and she did."

Kate Hagen, a 2012 Cinema Art + Science alumna, said she had been friends with Pearman since they met through Columbia's Screenwriting Program in 2010.

She said she was the most warm, optimistic and empathetic person she ever met.

"She will be deeply missed," Hagen said. "I am really sad we will never get to see the full expression of her gifts and everything else she had to offer."

Paul Peditto, an adjunct professor in the Cinema Art + Science Department and one of Pearman's first screenwriting teachers, said she stood out in his class with her natural writing voice and ability to make anyone laugh with her "out-of-the-box" humor and personality.

"She was just a spark," Peditto said. "She was different."

Hagen said Pearman's favorite movie was "Harold and Maude" and said the final line, "Go and love some more," is what Suzanne would want everybody to do.

"It is not about how Suzanne died—what is really important is about how she lived," Callis said. "She lived this authentic life."

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# Music grad sings heart out on 'The Voice'

» CAROLYN BRADLEY  
CAMPUS REPORTER

HANNA ASHBROOK, a 2013 music alumna, became the second Columbia grad to be featured on NBC's "The Voice" this season when she performed a cover of Tegan and Sara's "Closer" before being eliminated from the competition Oct. 20.

As reported by The Chronicle on Oct. 7, 2013, 2010 music alum Sam Cerniglia was featured on "The Voice" during the second week of audition rounds.

"The people I've met have definitely been the best part of it," Ashbrook said about her experience. "When I was going through the process, I didn't think I'd be able to do it. It's a lot of pressure, and I'm really weird in front of a camera. I was able to impress myself with what I can actually do."

Ashbrook said the casting team for "The Voice" reached out to her via email, and the team told her they selected her because they saw a couple of her YouTube videos.

The singer said she went through a private audition, and skipped the audition with the remaining cast members.

Ashbrook said she dealt with a serious case of bronchitis during her last semester at Columbia and lost her voice for two weeks, damaging her singing ability. Ashbrook was unable to sing as she had before, she said. After about a month, she brought it up with her vocal teacher, and he suggested she get her vocal cords examined. She said the doctors told her she had nodules.

After three months of vocal therapy proved ineffective, Ashbrook underwent two



surgeries to restore her normal singing voice.

"The whole thing probably took a year and a half of surgeries and recovering," Ashbrook said. "It was definitely tough, but I bounced back."

David Dolak, a senior lecturer in the Science & Mathematics Department, said Ashbrook developed her talent while attending Columbia by performing at

Acoustic Kitchen, the monthly open-stage event for the college's acoustic musicians which he frequently hosts.

"[Ashbrook] had a good stage presence," Dolak said. "She could tell stories about her songs."

Derek Fawcett, an adjunct professor in the Music Department, was Ashbrook's vocal instructor during her time at Columbia.

Fawcett said it is not unusual

Hanna Ashbrook, a 2013 music alumna, said despite feeling under pressure on "The Voice," she impressed herself with being in front of a camera.

for students who are constantly singing to experience vocal problems. He added that he immediately sensed Ashbrook had the "raw materials" to become a successful singer and solo artist.

"In my professional experience, I have found people who win people over with their personality as well as their musicianship tend to go really far," Fawcett said. "Those are both things Hanna has going for her."

Gary Yerkins, director of the Contemporary, Urban & Popular Music Program in the Music Department, said he remembers Ashbrook in his songwriting classes, and her unique vocals gave her a lot of character.

"She's very quiet and self-possessed, but she's fearless at the same time," Yerkins said.

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# ‘You Are Beautiful’ artist tells students not to fear failure

» **ARABELLA BRECK**  
CAMPUS REPORTER

**MATTHEW HOFFMAN, CREATOR** of the “You Are Beautiful” project, visited Columbia’s Design Department in the 623 S. Wabash Ave. Building on Nov. 5 for his talk, titled “Putting Yourself Out There.”

Students, faculty and staff heard Hoffman talk about the career he has built from “You Are Beautiful.”

Hoffman has a connection with Columbia. He worked with the school on a project in the Papermaker’s Garden, located at Wabash Avenue and 8th Street, in February 2014 called “Let’s Be Human To Each Other,” and spoke at the college’s TEDx event in April 2015.

Hoffman started his work as the “custodian” of the “You Are Beautiful” project in 2002, anonymously posting stickers with the

message, “You Are Beautiful” on them throughout his neighborhood.

Since 2002, Hoffman’s project has generated the posting of 2.5 million stickers on every continent, and the message has been translated into 81 languages, he told the audience.

Hoffman said the first stickers were printed in the wrong color and the lettering was pixelated. They were not waterproof and did not adhere to where they were stuck.

“There will be things that fail,” Hoffman told students. “You can let these setbacks crush you, or you can learn so much from them. If you stay focused, you will see that each failure is an opportunity.”

Hoffman has also created many public art pieces, including his two latest “You Are Beautiful” pieces in the Chinatown and Englewood neighborhoods.

“There is an adrenaline rush

with doing something some might call illegal—I call it sneakily positive,” Hoffman said. “Each of these pieces has the opportunity to change someone’s world.”

Meg Duguid, the director of Exhibitions and Programming for the School of Fine & Performing Arts, said the committee of faculty members that selects lecture speakers chose Hoffman because his experience as a self-made artist is valuable for students.

“[Hoffman] has made 10 years out of the ‘You Are Beautiful’ campaign, and that is a significant time period for such a simple statement,” Duguid said. “Things do not have to be complicated to be good, and there is value in spending a lot of time with something.”

Maggie O’Brien, a junior design major who attended the talk, said she learned of Hoffman’s work after seeing one of his stickers on a mailbox a couple years ago.

Designer Matthew Hoffman began the “You Are Beautiful” project in 2002, which has since spread to every continent.



» SANTIAGO COVARRUBIAS/CHRONICLE

“I liked how down-to-earth he was,” O’Brien said. “He seemed like a regular guy who wanted to do some good in the world, and I thought that was nice.”

The work Hoffman showed at the talk was interesting and inspiring, said Sophia Bravo, a junior art & art history major.

“I liked that he showed a lot of his pieces,” Bravo said. “I think the concept [of his work] is very nice.”

Hoffman ended by discussing what he called his “biggest

accomplishment to date.” At the end of 2014, 44 billboards reading “You Are Beautiful” were put up in Buffalo, New York, for three months.

“I hope I have shown that you never know what will happen when you put yourself out there,” Hoffman said to students. “The key is getting your ideas out of your head and out of your sketchbook and out of that documents folder and getting them into the world.”

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# Fashion studies students create candy couture

» LAUREN KOSTIUK  
CAMPUS REPORTER

**FIVE FASHION STUDIES** students were selected as finalists in Candyality's first-ever Unconventional Candy Wrapper Dress Competition.

The competition, sponsored by Water Tower Place, will display students' final designs Nov. 18–Dec. 31 at Candyality, located on the shopping center's Level 7, where visitors will be able to vote for their favorite design.

"Candy appeals to everybody, so I think the consumers will find it delightful [to see] what these creative students have come up [with]," said Terese McDonald, owner of Candyality, which features a wide assortment of candy.

The finalist designs were completed by Teresa Evans, a 2014 fashion studies alumna, and

current fashion studies majors: freshmen Jordan Kelley and Molly Quinn, sophomore Demerike Palecek and Columbia student Isabella Rosales.

To qualify for the competition, students submitted applications and sketches of dresses. The company received 10 applications, and a panel of judges from Water Tower Place selected the finalists, McDonald said.

Candyality is known for its several retrospective exhibitions and commissions to create gowns for art festivals and corporate events, like the Sweets & Snacks Expo held every spring at McCormick Place, according to McDonald.

The competition started when McDonald met with representatives from Water Tower Place to brainstorm marketing strategies for the holiday season. They liked her idea of attracting shoppers by

challenging students to design dresses made from candy wrappers, McDonald said.

Candyality reached out to Columbia's Fashion Studies Department because many of its students work for the company, she said.

"[Columbia students] are the first ones we turn to," McDonald said. "We figured we would go to the best."

Evans received Clark Bars as her candy wrapper for the final design competition. She said she had never heard of the

SEE CANDY, PAGE 11



» Courtesy CANDYALITY

Dresses are showcased at the Candyality museum, 835 N. Michigan Ave., 7th Floor.



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# Students bring Big Foot back to the stage

» CAROLYN BRADLEY  
CAMPUS REPORTER

**ROBYN WILSON AND** Joy Calhoun tied as winners of Big Foot, Columbia's dance talent showcase held for the first time in two years on Nov. 5. at Stage Two, 618 S. Michigan Ave.

The showcase's dance styles included improvised, freestyle and interpretive dances. The audience cheered and clapped as dancers stepped up to the stage to perform.

Wilson, a freshman dance major, said this was her first performance in front of students. She performed a tap dance routine to Duke Ellington's "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)."

"I was really nervous, because a lot of my new friends had not seen me dance," Wilson said. "I was also nervous because the

floor was slippery, and I was worried about wiping out."

Calhoun, a junior cinema art + science major, said she takes African dance classes at Columbia. She described her performance at Big Foot as a freestyle dance.

Calhoun added that she had not danced in front of an audience since taking dance lessons as a child.

"I was shaking; I was nervous; I was like 'I hope they like me,'" Calhoun said.

Calhoun said she loves various forms of dance and is exploring different styles outside of her major.

"I felt so alive when I got up there," Calhoun said. "I have not felt that in a while. I feel like it pushed me to go after what I want and not be afraid."

Jerel Ballard, a junior journalism major and president of the Student Government Association, hosted the showcase, which

was organized by the Student Programming Board.

Ballard said SPB wanted someone new to host the event, so they selected him. He added that it was a good way for SGA to work with SPB on a project.

"One of the goals SGA has this year is to be more engaged in the community—not just the Chicago community but the college community as well," Ballard said. "Having the SGA president host [Big Foot] was a good way to collaborate."

Ian Valiente, a junior business & entrepreneurship major and president of SPB, said Big Foot used to

be a regular event at the college.

Ballard said this is the first time SPB and SGA have collaborated during the 2015–2016 academic year, and he said he thinks the event was a success.

Valiente said SPB's goal is to make Big Foot as popular as Big Mouth, adding that the group has been planning the event since the summer to ensure it was well prepared.

"We are trying to bring [Big Foot] back again so we can acknowledge the dancers," Valiente said. "We want to give appreciation to the dancers, too, because we are an art school. We want to make sure we

acknowledge other talents here."

Monique Doron, a junior design major and SPB's director of Communications, said she hopes Big Foot will become a monthly event like Big Mouth, saying it is a goal of the student organization to branch out and create other, similar events.

"Since [Big Foot] went away, we wanted to bring it back, give it a fresh new face [and] give it something different," Doron said.

Austin Morin, a sophomore business & entrepreneurship major and SPB's director of Finance and Sponsorship, said Big Foot allows students from disciplines outside music and comedy to be featured.

"We really want to get a good representation of what Columbia is [at Big Foot], rather than just the audience and stage side to it," Morin said. "Rather than a guy or girl with a guitar singing a song, we want dancers, we want poets, and we want all different kinds [of artists]."



» EVAN BELL/CHRONICLE

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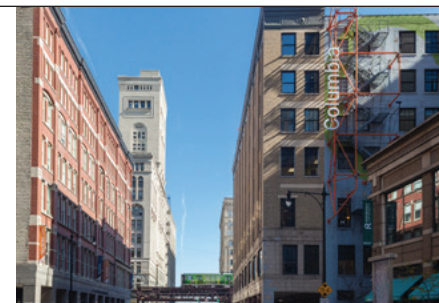
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Readings in Nonfiction: Transgender Writing, Transgender Self





CANDY, FROM PAGE 9

candy bar, which made it challenging, but she was excited to work with candy's color palette of red, white and black and said she never constructed anything with non-fabric items before.

Kelley said she used inspiration from the Renaissance and Japanese street fashion by creating a short, colorful dress with a puffy collar and skirt. She said she was surprised she was chosen because she is a freshman.

Quinn said the competition was

difficult, but she enjoyed seeing the finished product come together.

Palecek submitted a flamenco

instead. She said the most challenging part has been working with the wrapper's color scheme.

**“It is going to be a lot of fun [because people are out and about. It is a great time to take a break from shopping and to really appreciate art and fashion and candy.]”**

— Terese McDonald

salsa dancer-inspired outfit made from Swedish Fish wrappers for her application. Her final design uses Double Bubble Gum wrappers

All five finalists' creations will be showcased permanently at the Life is Sweet Candy Museum inside Candyality's Water Tower

Place store. The grand prize winner, chosen by Candyality customers, will receive \$500 worth of prizes from select Water Tower Place retailers when the votes are tallied after Dec. 31.

“It is going to be a lot of fun [because] people are out and about,” McDonald said. “It is a great time to take a break from shopping and to really appreciate art and fashion and candy.”

lkostiuk@chroniclemail.com

A dress made entirely of Tootsie Roll wrappers is on display at the Candyality museum, 835 N. Michigan Ave., 7th Floor.



» Courtesy CANDYALITY

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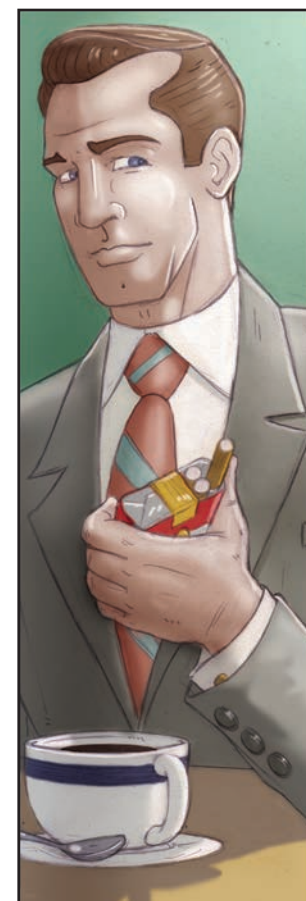
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» Courtesy STICKY GRAPHIC NOVELS



# Holy homoerotic comics, Batman!

» ZOË EITEL  
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

**EVERYONE'S SEXUAL AWAKENING** has a different origin story, and comic book superheroes are a part of many of them.

Dale Lazarov, a writer for Sticky Graphic Novels, is scheduled to give a presentation Nov. 10 on how comics contributed to his realization of his sexuality titled "Comics Made Me Gay" at Geek Bar Beta, 1941 W. North Ave.

Lazarov said he has been a lifelong reader of comics and loves '80s alternative comics. He started writing what he calls "character-based, homoerotic, sex-positive graphic novels" about 10 years ago.

"I'm happy there are gay characters in mainstream comics, but I honestly think it has caused people to ignore their own native culture," Lazarov said.

Lazarov said he thinks people ignore their culture when they compromise LGBT characters by trying to pander to straight people, and he likes alternative comics because they do not do that.

"My problem is not with mainstream publishers, but with the fans of mainstream

publishers," Lazarov said. "There's a stance that if it doesn't [follow] one of the major continuities—either DC or Marvel—it is not real."

Lazarov said he thinks comics are useful in depicting people's eroticism, identity and sexuality.

"Sexuality and relationships are all individual," Lazarov said. "I think comics are a great medium to demonstrate that there's no one ideal way to be gay, manly or femme. There's a huge spectrum of manliness, and comics allow that to happen in a way other mediums really don't."

Lazarov said he thinks the gay community should not be rigid regarding how they describe and think about each other in terms of features and body type.

"When I was [in my 20s], I didn't know I was attractive," Lazarov said. "In fact, I used to think I wasn't really gay because I never saw anybody like me. In the '90s, people started drawing and painting guys who looked like me, and I was like 'Wow, I'm supposed to be hot, and if this is desirable, yep, I'm a homo.'"

Lazarov said he would like it if the young members of the queer community were

Dale Lazarov said he started writing comics 10 years ago and has written seven published hardcovers for Sticky Graphic Novels including "Fast Friends," "Greek Love" and "Peacock Punks."

nicer to older gay people who had a tougher time than them because he often feels excluded from the scene.

"I would love it if young queers could spend more time acknowledging older people," Lazarov said. "I went to a Madonna party at Berlin, and people treated me like I shouldn't be there, and I'm going, 'B---h, I bought Madonna's first record before she was cool. I belong here more than you.'"

He said he came up with the idea for the presentation five years ago and first performed it in 2012. He added that he does not want to overwrite the presentation, so he will be improvising some of it and see what catches the audience's interest.

"I'll be using examples from old-timey superhero and alternative comics to show how comics are particularly suited to show the subjective and the objective experience of eroticism," Lazarov said. "One thing single images can't do is give you a narrative context for the sexuality."

David Zoltan is the Fleet Admiral and founder of Geek Bar Beta, where the presentation will be held. He said Lazarov runs the bar's monthly Gay Comics Salon.

"We trust [Lazarov] to put together an amazing and fun chat that will get people talking about how comics have influenced their life as somebody who is gay and how that helped them, or sometimes how it hurt them," Zoltan said.

Zoltan said the Geek Bar Beta has genderqueer-and transgender-friendly

bathrooms and works to be as inclusive of the LGBT community with its events as possible.

"This is an opportunity for people to talk about their experiences, what the comic book community can do to make things better for people in the future and to keep a positive outlook on helping each other in the geek community at large," Zoltan said.

Zoltan said the bar is the first he knows of to have an anti-harassment policy.

"LGBT visibility is important in everything, not just entertainment," said Victoria Shannon, an adjunct faculty member in the Humanities, History & Social Sciences Department. "It should be included in history, psychology, economics classes even. All that needs to be more inclusive because LGBT people need validation and affirmation."

Shannon said she believes LGBT students can use different forms of art to tell their stories and wishes more people would share their coming out stories.

"You should not take for granted that the world welcomes you," Lazarov said. "You should remain vigilant because at any moment, things could change."

"Comics Made Me Gay" will take place at Geek Bar Beta Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. with free admission. For more information, visit [GeekBarChicago.com](http://GeekBarChicago.com). For more on Dale Lazarov, visit [DaleLazarov.com](http://DaleLazarov.com).

zeitel@chroniclemail.com



# behind the beat

» JACOB WITTICH  
MANAGING EDITOR

## Fans question Beyoncé's LGBT community support

Voters in Houston failed to approve a proposed equal rights ordinance Nov. 3 that would have marked an LGBT victory in the state of Texas.

The Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO) would have prohibited discrimination based on a number of characteristics, including sexual orientation and gender identity. However, the bill failed to pass after 62 percent of the public voted against it.

Opponents of gay marriage used fear tactics to rally opposition to the bill, claiming it would allow sexual predators to roam freely in women's bathrooms. They used the slogan "Protect women's privacy. Prevent danger" in an anti-HERO campaign.

Many people spoke out against the ordinance, but a number of prominent figures and celebrities expressed support for the measure, including Matt Bomer, Jim Parsons and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. Notably silent, though, was Houston native Beyoncé.

In a Nov. 4 post titled "Beyoncé Ignored the LGBT Community in Houston," on the Huffington Post's Gay Voices Blog, Carlos Maza, LGBT program director at Media Matters Carlos Maza details his months-long effort to influence Beyoncé to speak out in support of HERO since it was announced in August that it would go up for a public repeal vote.

Maza explains that Beyoncé is the most famous person to come out of Houston, with her own page on the "Visit Houston" tourist website in which she claims, "[Houston] will always be home to me!"

Beyoncé's influence over the Houston community—and the rest of the world—is undeniable. Ranking as the third-most followed person on Instagram with more than 47 million followers, Beyoncé could have inspired millions to rally in support of the ordinance with a simple Instagram post, as Maza points out.

Maza began his crusade to obtain Beyoncé's public support in August by writing a blog post asking her to make a single Instagram post supporting HERO. His campaign soon gained national



attention, sparking the popular hashtag #BeyBeAHERO and being reported by major media outlets including NBC, BuzzFeed and the Houston Chronicle and major LGBT organizations like GLAAD, the Courage Campaign and the National LGBTQ Task Force.

However, Beyoncé's Instagram account continued to feature mundane photos of her meals, vacation pics and—on the same night Houston voted against the ordinance—a silent video of the star posing glamorously in front of the American flag, but nothing regarding Houston's HERO vote.

Beyoncé has previously expressed support for the LGBT community, but only at times when it was safe to do so. After the June 26 Supreme Court ruling making same-sex marriage a national right, Beyoncé shared an LGBT-themed remix of her "7/11" music video celebrating the decision.

However, the singer's silence regarding LGBT rights opposition in her own hometown suggests she is not fully invested in the issue.

Beyoncé is largely recognized as an icon among the LGBT community, and LGBT-identifying fans comprise a large portion of the people buying tickets to her shows, requesting her music from radio DJs and streaming her songs and videos. The least she could have done is make a simple Instagram post encouraging people to vote in support of LGBT rights.

jwittich@chroniclemail.com



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**YOUNG RISING SONS**

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1551 N. Damen Ave.  
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\$16 advance, \$18 door

Saturday, Nov. 14

**ROAM**

Beat Kitchen  
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Tuesday, Nov. 10

**BOYTOY**

Empty Bottle  
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9 p.m.  
\$5

Sunday, Nov. 15

**COPELAND**

The Metro  
3730 N. Clark St.  
6 p.m.  
\$20 advance, \$25 door

## FEATURED PHOTO

New Jersey band Yo La Tengo brought an acoustic gig to The Vic Theatre Nov. 5.



» SANTIAGO COVARRUBIAS/CHRONICLE



## 'Never The Sinner' examines 'Crime of the Century'

» JAKE MILLER  
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

**"NEVER THE SINNER,"** a play by Tony Award winner John Logan detailing the 1924 murder trial of Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, began its run at the Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave., on Nov. 6.

Leopold and Loeb were University of Chicago students who came from prominent families. In 1924, they kidnapped and murdered 14-year-old Robert "Bobby" Franks in an attempt to demonstrate their intellectual superiority by committing what they deemed a "perfect crime."

The pair murdered the boy in an attempt to actualize the philosophical concept of the "Superman" as envisioned by Friedrich Nietzsche, said Isaac Gomez, literary manager at Victory Gardens

Theater and dramaturge for the play. The Superman was a goal that Nietzsche set for humanity, which entails the transcendence of traditional moral boundaries.

"In their effort to see if they can be above the law, they discover they are not supermen," Gomez said.

According to Gomez, "Never The Sinner" draws its content from thousands of court documents, psychological examinations and

letters exchanged between the two men. Certain crimes throughout history take on an iconic cultural significance characterizing the era when they occurred, said Leigh B. Bienen, senior lecturer at Northwestern University School of Law and co-author of the book "Crimes of The Century."

"Somehow [Leopold and Loeb] not only captured the public imagination but became a huge media event," Bienen said. "Memories about it linger on, people still talk about it, [and] people still wonder about how it happened."

In the 1920s, crime was largely associated with the impoverished lower class, said Simon Baatz, a

history professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and author of a book on the crime and its times, "For The Thrill of It." The Leopold and Loeb case was shocking to the public because it contradicted preconceived notions about criminal activity and the wealthier, educated class, he said.

"In every single way, this crime seemed to go against every belief that middle-class society held dear," Baatz said.

Gomez said "Never The Sinner" raises questions about who in society commits crimes and about the kinds of circumstances that motivate them to do so.

"[We examine] the ideas of privilege and how they function inside and outside of our criminal justice system," he said.

However, Gomez said "Never The Sinner's" unbiased exploration of Leopold and Loeb's complex personalities and the feelings which led them to commit their crimes are far more important to the play's impact and understanding of the broader significance of the event.

"There is something deep and profound [the playwright] does in crafting these young men that's rooted in their romantic relationship," Gomez said. "In a lot of artistic recreations, they don't lean into that element as much."

According to Gomez, the sentimentality of "Never The Sinner" does not intend to justify Leopold and Loeb's crime but to aid in better understanding the circumstances that led them to commit it.

"Never The Sinner" is scheduled to run Nov. 6–Dec. 6 at Victory Gardens Theater. For more information, visit: [www.VictoryGardens.org](http://www.VictoryGardens.org).

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audiofile

Tribe Society rocks with a conscience

» JAKE MILLER  
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER



» Courtesy ISLAND RECORDS

Tribe Society's debut mixtape, *Delirium Sonata*, featured 30 minutes of continuous instrumentals reminiscent of Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of The Moon*.

Alt-rock band Tribe Society's members have known each other for nearly a decade, but they released their debut mixtape, *Delirium Sonata*, exclusively on Spotify only this year. The band is currently touring its new EP *Lucid Dreams* and is set to perform Nov. 19 at the Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. Tribe Society's lineup includes lead vocalist Gavin Merlot, bass and guitarist Rory Given, keyboardist Bradford Alderman, drummer Phil Boucher and keyboard and flutist Seth Hachen.

The band's idiosyncratic sound is drawn from diverse influences including psychedelic rock, '80s anthems and hip-hop. Tribe Society's music aims to

be thought-provoking without losing the energetic fun of rock 'n' roll in the process.

The Chronicle spoke with Merlot about Tribe Society's long-gestating development, artistic influences and upcoming performance in Chicago.

THE CHRONICLE: How and when did the band form?

**GAVIN MERLOT:** [Given] and [I] met when we were teens, and we played a lot of punk-rock music in the basement. When [he] and I went to college, we met the rest of the guys in the group. We all moved to New York together to form this group, to get serious and try to make something special. We've known each other for a long time, but the band is only about a year old.

Where did the band's name come from?

Originally, we wanted to call ourselves Tribes because a band essentially is a tribe, and society is a collection of micro-tribes. It seemed like something that could be perceived a lot of different ways, but the name Tribes was taken, so Tribe Society seemed like the next best thing.

How would you describe the band's musical style?

We're definitely a genre-bending band. Everyone in the band is a producer, so we incorporate a lot of production. We borrow the production from electronic, hip-hop and psychedelic, and we try to keep the band [organic] by having live instrumentation on top of that production.

Who are some of the band's influences?

We've been really influenced by live comedians and stand-up comics in New York City. Rock bands in today's world have stopped talking about current issues, but comedians have never failed to report and put their own artistic spin on what we're going through and where we need to be.

What is the message of your music and what do you hope it achieves?

One of the biggest issues we've noticed is the way technology has brought us together in certain ways but has also made us more separate. It's created a lot of noise; It's definitely a noise culture. We're distracted by our own vanity. A phone could be a device that could connect us or put infinite knowledge at our fingertips, but instead we use them to seek acceptance through social networks or take selfies. In today's age, how do you cut through that and connect with other humans in a positive way?

What advice do you have to offer to aspiring musicians?

Be bold and don't filter yourselves. Don't ever think that if you lie about a part of yourself, you'll be more accessible. The things you decide to filter out might be the most important or interesting parts of your character. Don't be afraid to express what you really feel is necessary.

dmiller@chroniclemail.com

▶

Last five songs I listened to

Staff Playlist

» FRANK ENYART ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER	» ALEX AGHAYERE GRAPHIC DESIGNER	» LAUREN KOSTIUK CAMPUS REPORTER	» ZOË HAWORTH GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Halo Noah Gundersen	The Cage Death Grips	I Found You Alabama Shakes	Violet Hippo Campus
Writing on the Walls Underoath	Infinity +1 Sunbeam Sound Machine	Rise Up Andra Day	HELP The Front Bottoms
Spaceman The Killers	Killing Me Little Dragon	Poetic Justice Kendrick Lamar	Is There Somewhere Halsey
Coming of Age Foster the People	True Stories Billy Woods	Nakamarra Hiatus Kaiyote	Love Me The 1975
Curse your Branches David Bazan	Home LCD Soundsystem	Never Catch Me Flying Lotus	Every Other Freckle Alt-J



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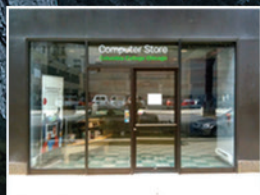
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## Christkindlmarket celebrates 20th year sans tree

» ZÖE EITEL  
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

**THE FIRST CHRISTKINDLMARKET** in Chicago, 411 N. Michigan Ave., took place 20 years ago with just a handful of wooden stands in which patrons could shop. This year, the Christkindlmarket will be hosted at Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington St., and include 55 different vendors providing traditional German goods to Chicagoans in walk-in cabins and heated tents, but missing will be the city's 60-foot Christmas tree.

"We'll have new vendors [and] vendors we've had for years," said Maren Biester Priebe, vice president and managing director of German American Services.

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, Christkindlmarket will host a ticketed kick-off party Nov. 19, according to Biester Priebe.

According to the market's website, the kick-off party will include a buffet, a sneak preview of popular vendors and live entertainment.

"We used to always do [the kick-off party] with the City of Chicago with the tree lighting ceremony, [but it] moved to Millennium Park," Biester Priebe said.

This year's market includes performances by new and returning theater troupes, a capella groups and dance companies during "performance days" dedicated to each of those arts, which are new additions in honor of the 20th anniversary, Biester Priebe said.

She added there are new events for children hosted by their Kinderclub this year, including an entire day dedicated to children's activities on Dec. 2.

"In the evening, we have our annual children's lantern parade headed off by our Christkind," Biester Priebe said.

The Christkind is a traditional German fairy-like angel who delivers gifts to children on Christmas.

Biester Priebe said the market will feature all vendors in a central location at Daley Plaza this year.

Frank Baez-Doelle has been a

vendor at the market for his shop, Frank's Ornament House, since the market's inaugural year.

"Everybody loves the Christmas market," Baez-Doelle said. "It became a tradition to go to the market and see the foreign, unique products and just get in the spirit of Christmas."

Baez-Doelle's shop boasts more than 2,500 handmade ornaments imported from Germany, where his family runs shops in two other Christkindlmarkts, he said.



More than 65 percent of Christkindlmarket's vendors travel from Germany to participate, according to the market's website.

"[At the market] we prepare to get into the spirit and for Christmas. We shop for gifts and enjoy being outside," Baez-Doelle said.

Baez-Doelle said the market has improved and become more professional in the last 20 years.

"More people know about the market now," Baez-Doelle said. "If you ask someone about the Christmas market in Chicago, everybody knows."

Ayla Maisey, a freshman creative writing major, visited Germany in December 2014 and went to four different Christkindlmarkts.

"A lot of the merchandise [at the German Christmas markets] is homemade," Maisey said. "They value more traditional, homemade and artistic styles."

Maisey said she is excited to go to Chicago's Christkindlmarket, but she is also a bit wary.

"As far as content goes, you're going to get American influences," Maisey said. "I liked the ones in Germany, [so] I'm excited no matter the differences."

Biester Priebe said admission to the market is free, so everyone should attend.

"You can have fun, and you don't have to buy anything," Biester Priebe said. "It's about enjoying the holidays and the city as well."

*Christkindlmarket opens Nov. 20. Admission to the market is free, but general admission tickets for the kick-off party start at \$90 and can be found at Christkindlmarket.com along with more information. For more information on Frank's Ornament House, visit X-MasWorld.com.*

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Nelson Algren, who wrote *Chicago: City on the Make* and *The Man with the Golden Arm*, is profiled in this feature-length documentary, having its Columbia College Chicago debut on Nov. 12 with two **FREE** showings at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th Floor. At 5:30 p.m., Michael Caplan, ALGREN's director and a Cinema Art + Science professor, will lead a panel on the novelist known for his vivid portrayals of Chicago and its underclass, grifters, gamblers, prostitutes and other characters of the night.

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Professor delivers with latest novel: ‘Marvel and a Wonder’

» FRANK ENYART  
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

“Over the low-lying fields, over the wide meadows, the sun—rampant, galloping westward—beating back the night. On and on across the white hills, the dun-colored hills, the hills ripening with green...” begins Joe Meno’s ninth novel, “Marvel and a Wonder,” published Sept. 1 by Akashic Books.

The story, which takes place in the near-ghost town of Mount Holly, Indiana, tells of Korean War veteran and farmer Jim Falls. Complications arise as he tries to interact with his 16-year-old grandson Quentin, a chubby “mixed-breed” with an affinity for Biggie Smalls, in the absence of Quentin’s mother, a deadbeat and frequent prescription drug abuser.

The main action centers around a white quarter horse named John the Baptist, inherited by Falls by way of an estate transfer error on the East Coast.

Convinced the fortuitous timing is nothing short of divine intervention, Jim and Quentin’s worlds come crashing down when the horse is stolen, forcing the two to go on a heart-wrenching and frustratingly intriguing quest to retrieve their miracle—one that leads them all over the Midwest and the near South.

Meno, who is associate chair of the Creative Writing Department and a Columbia graduate, includes countless themes woven in the fabric of relationships and drama, including racism, drug abuse, generational distance and poverty.

Though Meno crafts a dramatic arc that is both compelling and

In addition to being faculty, Meno is also a Columbia alumnus, graduating with his bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in Creative Writing in 1997 and 2000, respectively.

approachable, his true stride is found in the way small moments are expanded to feel monumental through simple dialogue or the way Quentin actively watches his grandfather breathe, just to make sure he is still alive.

For instance, Quentin is forced to face his greatest fear—dogs—in an attempt to obtain fuel for their pickup. Never one to glance over an opportunity for epic heroism, Meno paints Quentin as a war hero, complete with wounds, as he encounters the beast, aware that he is “every bit [the dog’s] inferior.”

Meno also crafts characters who have a “love-to-hate” complexity, wherein even the most rotten scoundrel has a hint of good in him, or the most loving and charitable characters have a major flaw—ranging from alcoholism and abusing prostitutes to sniffing glue and trying to breed exotic reptiles.



» Courtesy AKASHIC BOOKS

Though characters have a layer of complexity elevated above everyday experiences, Meno includes small moments of intense, capital “H” humanity.

For example, an episode of impotence experienced by Jim Falls creates a moment of intense empathy, bringing back memories of his long-dead wife and treasured times of fervor and youth.

A few chapters begin with sprawling, Steinbeckian descriptions of the setting, quickly accomplishing what could easily take multiple pages, such as the following description of Nashville:

“At midnight the stars assembled in the sky. Edging ever closer to the gleam of Nashville’s skyline, its silver-blue bridges and stunted skyscrapers, these lone shapes twinned in the surface of the Cumberland River.”

There can be little argument the epitome of humility is in blue collar Americana, and that Meno delivers a thoughtful novel from which readers are left thinking more about miracles than they did upon entering the sleepy, complicated town of Mount Holly.

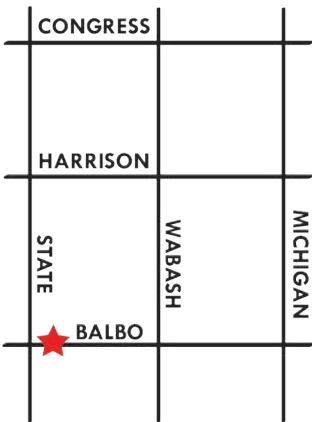
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# STUDENTS PUT THEIR BEST FOOT FORWARD

1

**STUDENTS GATHERED AT** Stage Two, 618 S. Michigan Ave., Nov. 5 to witness Big Foot, a dance talent showcase. As reported in the Page 10 article, this was the first time the event has occurred since 2013.

The Student Programming Board organized the event, which Ian Valiente, president of SPB, said they wanted to bring back to acknowledge Columbia's dancers. The showcase included various genres such as tap, freestyle and interpretive dancing.

Robyn Wilson, a freshman dance major, and Joy Calhoun, a junior cinema art + science major, tied for first place. The showcase culminated with the audience's applause for every performer.



Photos by Evan Bell  
Design by Zoë Haworth  
Story by Carolyn Bradley

2



3





1) Robyn Wilson, a freshman dance major, led the Big Foot festivities by showing off her tap dancing skills for the crowd. Wilson would go on to tie in first place with another contestant at the end of the night. 2) Student Government Association President and junior journalism major Jerel Ballard hosted the event organized by the Student Programming Board at Stage Two. 3) Freshman dance major Kevin Tran performed an interpretive dance on stage. 4) Gregory McEirath, a senior radio broadcast major, performed a Chicago dance called foot working. 5) Junior poetry major, Jeremy Johnson, performed some freestyle movements. This was Johnson's first time performing in public. 6) April Butcher, a senior dance major, performed a freestyle cover to Chance the Rapper's "Angels." 7) Contestants joined Ballard on stage as the crowd chose the winner for this year's first Big Foot performance.







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## Experimental artist Laurie Anderson discusses new film 'Heart of a Dog'

» ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI  
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

Creative pioneer Laurie Anderson is primarily known as a musician but is also a storyteller and movie director, drawing praise from the New York Times for her new film "Heart of a Dog," released Oct. 21. Born and raised in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, outside of Chicago, Anderson began her musical journey in 1981 with the song "O Superman," which topped the U.K. Singles Chart and then appeared on her debut album, *Big Science*.

Anderson directed and composed the score for her 1986 feature length film "Home of the Brave," a concert film featuring live songs debuted during her first world tour. Other popular works include her book "Stories from the Nerve Bible" (1995) and "Songs and Stories for Moby Dick," a multimedia performance based on the

book by Herman Melville.

"Heart of a Dog" is Anderson's latest documentary work, created through personal essays about her rat terrier dog Lolabelle. The film mixes childhood memories and video diaries of other artists that inspire her. The film is showing at film festivals and theaters across the country and will premiere Nov. 13 at Chicago's Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave. It is dedicated to her late husband Lou Reed, the rock pioneer, who died in 2013.

The Chronicle spoke with Anderson about "Heart of a Dog," her inspirations and the unexpected direction the film has taken.

### THE CHRONICLE: What inspired the film?

**LAURIE ANDERSON:** Originally, I thought I'd just grab some dog stories, [but] then I started thinking about empathy, blindness and how we tell stories. It's really a collection of short stories. Many of

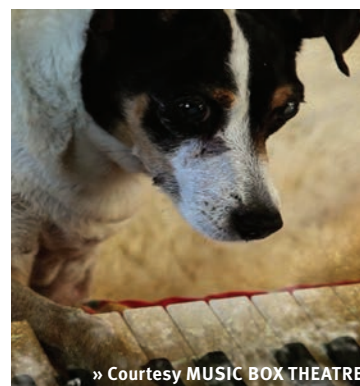
them—on the surface—are about people and the NSA and friends, but underneath they are about why you tell stories and what happens when you tell them too often, or what happens when you forget them. They begin to shape you in a weird way. ["Heart of a Dog"] is about how words can shape the world [around you].

### How would you describe the film's style?

It is a lot of layers. I use a lot of filters. Violin is my instrument and when you are playing the violin, it is a very different sound than what the audience hears. You are hearing the crunches and cracks and overtones and harmonics—really beautiful sounds that disappear by the time they slip out into the hall. I make a lot of filters that bring that off of the noise floor and make it very gritty. I do the same thing



» Courtesy CHICAGO MEDIA PROJECT



» Courtesy MUSIC BOX THEATRE

Laurie Anderson, right, came to Chicago Oct. 17 for an advanced screening of "Heart of a Dog" and attended a reception at Billy Dec's Rokit Bar & Grill, hosted by the Chicago Media Project. Pictured above is Lolabelle, Anderson's dog and protagonist in the film, who is seen playing the piano on the movie poster.

with the visuals. For example, the animations in the beginning of the film—I wanted them to look like an old comic book, so really raggy. It has a more organic feel and less pristine, digital stuff. It's very homemade. [The film] asks you to see through a lot of different ways, so you see from the dog's perspective, then cut to the lens of a surveillance camera. It is a demanding film, and in a funny way, almost a radio play— So many things talked about but you never see. It is also coming out as a soundtrack record. It works quite well without any pictures.

### "Learn how to feel sad without being sad" is a quote from the film. What does it mean to you and did Lolabelle help?

The world helps you in that regard. That was [said by] my meditation teacher. There are a lot of sad things in the world but if you try to push them away, they will come back and bite you. His ideas were, "Don't ignore them, but don't become them." That was a really crucial point I tried to keep in line in the movie, even though there are a lot of things that are quite sad in it. I am trying not to make it a sad experience—it is more of a discovery. It is made up of questions but no answers.

### How does "Heart of a Dog" compare to your other work?

It has a lot to do with my past work in the sense that it is analyzing what stories are. There's probably more personal stuff in this one so that was more vulnerable. I didn't expect it to get past an art channel. The fact that it is going in all of these places, going to be on HBO is not what I had thought of for this project. So, it's an odd one for me. The other films I have done have been bigger budgets and this one was haphazard and homemade, so it has been really interesting to see that it's going this other direction.

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## Recipe

## 'Chron-style' brownies

» PHOTOS LOU FOGLIA/CHRONICLE

» ARABELLA BRECK  
CAMPUS REPORTER

You may have heard of these brownies called by other names, but I call them Chron-style brownies because, just like The Chronicle, they have a little bit of everything you love, and making them is as

easy as picking up the paper on Monday morning.

Because I am vegan, I make my Chron-style brownies vegan. You can substitute ingredients, but my version is delicious, and I would recommend it to anyone.

I use Oreos, which are technically vegan, in this recipe. If you

want to steer clear of all the artificial stuff that's in them, Newman's Own makes a healthier vegan option called Newman-O's.

This recipe makes approximately one huge brownie, or 20 if you feel like sharing and not dying.

abreck@chroniclemail.com

## Ingredients:

- 1 package Pamela's Chocolate Chunk Cookie Mix
- 1 package Enjoy Life's brownie mix
- 1 package Oreos
- 1 1/2 teaspoons Ener-G egg replacer
- 8 tablespoons Earth Balance vegan butter
- 2 tablespoons coconut oil



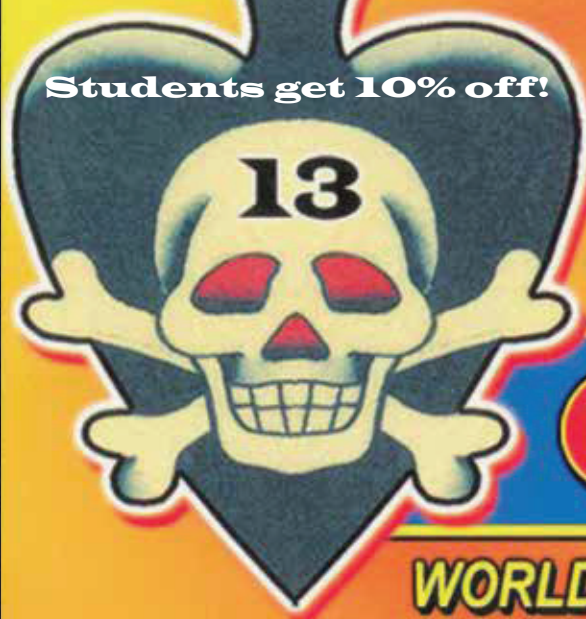
## Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Line baking pan with aluminum foil and spray with preferred cooking oil.
3. Mix brownie and cookie mixes in separate bowls. These mixes are vegan, but they call for non-vegan ingredients so substitute coconut oil, vegan butter and egg replacer.
4. Layer cookie dough in pan bottom.
5. Add layer of Oreos.
6. Top evenly with brownie batter.
7. Bake for 30 minutes. Before taking out of oven, test with fork.
8. Let cool for 10–15 minutes and serve with glass of unsweetened coconut almond milk.

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» G-JUN YAM/CHRONICLE



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freshman creative writing major

*"Boots."*



**Kala Wahl**  
freshman creative writing major

*"Facial Hair — thick beard."*

**Michael Lindgren**  
junior business & entrepreneurship major

*"A really nice pair of shoes."*



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# Chicago Gay Men's Chorus 'funks up' Christmas favorites

» FRANK ENYART  
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

**THE CHICAGO GAY** Men's Chorus is looking to revitalize and put its stamp on classic holiday songs as the season quickly approaches.

This year, the group's annual holiday show "Miracle on Thirty-Funk Street" is scheduled for performances Nov. 29 at the Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th St.; Dec. 4 at the Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph St.; and Dec. 5 at North Shore Center, 9501 Skokie Boulevard in Skokie, Illinois.

Accompanied by a six-piece brass band, the chorus will mix holiday favorites with funky compositions and attitude, according to the organization's website.

After accompanying the group for six years, James Morehead

became the artistic director at the end of the 2014 season and will maintain that role for the group's 33rd season.

According to Morehead, the show's inspiration came from hearing some under-the-radar funk tracks from the '70s.

He said he decided to mix in a few holiday favorites such as "Joy to the World" and "We Three Kings"—albeit with some of their own hints of flair.

"Rearranged [some classics], and there's a very traditional, classical rendition of 'Personent Hodie,' a medieval Latin carol and there are some pop songs as well," Morehead said. "[However], they're not just the full chorus singing. I might have a small group or maybe some drag queens perform as well."

Like many of the chorus' shows,

there is more to the performances than "stand and sing" productions, including dance and other theatrical elements such as comedic sketches, according to Morehead.

The chorus' performance at Beverly Arts Center will be its first performance south of Hyde Park, according to interim executive director Ken Puttbach.

"Shellee [Frazee, artistic director of Beverly Arts Center] gave us a call, and based on our reputation, wanted to gauge our interest in being part of their programming," Puttbach said. "They do a wide range of [programs], so we met with them and decided to give this a shot."

According to the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, of which CGMC was a 2001 inductee, the group has been a "positive force in Chicago and northeastern Illinois and [provided] an important social outlet for its members."

Israel Wright, executive director of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, added that induction into the Hall of Fame in and of itself shows the support the

chorus has received from the community, as possible inductees must be nominated by their peers.

"The nomination is definitely a statement about how much the organization has contributed to [their cause] and how others have recognized what they are doing," Wright said.

Puttbach said going to the far South Side is just one example of the CGMC's dedication to inclusion and being a voice for the LGBT community and its members.

"We have several women in the chorus—gay, straight [and] trans

people as well," Puttbach said. "As an LGBT organization, it would go against everything we stand for if we didn't have open inclusion and non-discrimination policies."

Puttbach said the upbeat show, paired with diverse performance spaces, aligns with the main goal of the chorus.

"We seek out locations where the LGBT community may be underrepresented," Puttbach said. "[The Beverly Arts Center] show definitely fits that need."

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Courtesy CHICAGO GAY MENS CHORUS

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# New Chicago play tackles stigma of mental illness

» **BRETT STEWART**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“TELL ME WHAT You Remember,” a play delving into the true story of a family’s struggle with mental

illness, will run at the Filament Theatre, 4041 N. Milwaukee Ave., from Nov. 12–15 and Nov. 19–22.

Coordinated by the Erasing the Distance organization, the play’s taboo subject matter ties directly

to the organization’s mission to foster conversation, education and healing centered on mental illness issues in Chicago.

Erasing the Distance is a Chicago-based, nonprofit arts organization hosting an array of events to educate and de-stigmatize mental disorders, notes its website. In addition to eight showings of “Tell Me What You Remember,” the organization

provides more intimate experiences ranging from workshops to school events to create dialogue about depression and anxiety.

Albert Williams, a senior lecturer in the Theatre Department, said theater has a history of addressing stories about mental illnesses and stigmas.

“What these people are doing is really interesting, but it’s not the first time there was a show that dealt with mental illness or depression or anxiety,” Williams said. “The first musical of the 21st century to win the Pulitzer Prize was ‘Next to Normal,’ which is a modern rock musical about a family dealing with depression and mental illness.”

What makes “Tell Me What You Remember” different from other plays about mental illness is its roots in reality, as it is based on true events, according to Jennifer Mathews, an actress in the show.

“[The play is] based on a real family Erasing the Distance spoke to and collected stories [from],” Mathews said. “It’s like documentary theater. We collect

their stories and then we shape them into monologues and scenes in .... We use all of their real words.”

“Tell Me What You Remember” aims to cover ground vital to a successful connection with an audience. Michael Moynihan, a sophomore theatre major, said theater-goers will receive experiences and emotional connections worth holding onto long after they’ve departed the show.

“[Audiences] should have a strong emotional reaction to [the play],” Moynihan said. “For some people, that reaction will be cathartic, and for others, it may be something else. But ultimately, the audience is paying a lot for that experience, so theater should tackle charged or ‘taboo’ issues.”

“Tell Me What You Remember” is set to run Nov. 12–15 and Nov. 19–22 at the Filament Theatre, 4041 N. Milwaukee Ave. Students can go to [ErasingTheDistance.org](http://ErasingTheDistance.org) for tickets at a student rate of \$15, or \$20 for normal advance ticket, \$25 at the door.

[chronicle@colum.edu](mailto:chronicle@colum.edu)



Graham Brown portrays Charlie, the husband of Kristin, the play’s main narrator.

» Courtesy JESSE RUSSELL



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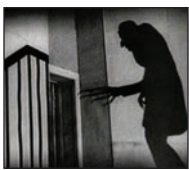
our staff's  
top 5 picks:

## VIDEO & BLOG REVIEWS



### Video: "I told my kids I ate all their Halloween candy 2015"

Though the season of spooky costumes and candy overload is over, you can still enjoy the festivities by watching Jimmy Kimmel's annual video of kids' responses after their parents tell them they ate all of their Halloween candy. The reactions are priceless.



### Blog: "Sixpenceee"

Again, Halloween may be over, but Sixpenceee works any time of the year, with its collection of weird science facts and scary stories, based in reality and paranormal realms. This blog has links to the strangest and most absurd places on the Internet, and whether you are intrigued or terrified, you will never be bored. Do not let the creep factor get to you, though, because there are plenty of real-world explanations to supplement the unknown.



### THINGS I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DO ANYMORE

» CAROLYN BRADELY  
CAMPUS REPORTER

#### Take naps:

These were lifesavers last year. I'd come home from class, fall asleep and then wake up amazingly refreshed. I always looked forward to that brief chance to rejuvenate. Maybe caffeine isn't such a terrible idea, after all.

#### Catch up with friends:

My freshman year gave me a lot of time to frequently call my best friends in Michigan. It was easy to find out all of the salacious happenings back in "the Mitten" on a moment's notice. I'm now learning how to hold off on these coveted conversations until the weekend.

#### Book search:

Whenever I had the chance, I'd go to the Harold Washington Library across the street and spend the better part of a free day getting lost in its bookshelves. My reading list is now longer than ever, and I'm eagerly awaiting the wonderful day I can return to my bookworm element.

#### Friday nights out:

Maybe I didn't go out and socialize with friends every weekend, anyway. My version of a night out was mainly wandering through the Loop. The Fridays when I pretended to have a night on the town have been replaced with Fridays when I wait patiently to make edits to pages.

#### Wishing for something extraordinary:

With the amount of free time I had my first year, I felt as if I were missing out on doing something great. Now I'm too busy doing what I really enjoy doing to worry about missing out.



### REASONS I'M A MIDDLE-AGED MOM

» LAUREN KOSTIUK  
CAMPUS REPORTER

#### Facebook:

I fall under the category of a "Facebook mom," which implies I post more than once a day, share posts about consuming too much wine and watching HGTV's "House Hunters" and occasionally "poke" people. I have no shame.

#### Music taste:

If you read my staff playlists, you will realize my music choices are from different eras. It becomes very apparent at parties when I ask the DJ to play my favorite Motown classics or rock 'n' roll hits instead of One Direction. I can't help getting down to Stevie Wonder.

#### Sudoku:

I do the Sudoku puzzle in the RedEye every morning. I've gotten so good I can even do it standing up on the subway during the rush-hour crowd. Once, an elderly man and I bonded on the train over our Sudoku puzzles—it was great.

#### Saturday nights:

I would rather stay at home on Saturday nights and do some vacuuming and put on a classic movie like "The Sound of Music." I even make the occasional trip to Crate & Barrel because huge parties are overrated, but finding the right throw pillow and kitchen tool is not.

#### Wardrobe:

If you were to open my closet, you would find a lot of turtlenecks and several odd vintage items. My style is described as part hipster, soccer mom and businesswoman who shops at Bloomingdale's and Kohl's. I'll take it as a compliment.



### REASONS I STILL LOVE 'THE DAILY SHOW'

» ARABELLA BRECK  
CAMPUS REPORTER

#### A different perspective:

A young, black man from South Africa who has been working on the show for a couple months has a different perspective than a middle-aged, white man raised in New Jersey who worked on the show more than 15 years. I have always been a ride-or-die Jon Stewart fan, but Trevor Noah brings a perspective that mainstream media needs.

#### The correspondents:

The correspondents have only improved with Noah hosting. One of my favorite moments this season was Jessica Williams talking about gun control. Check it out if you haven't already.

#### Noah's maturity:

Before starting at "The Daily Show," some of Noah's old tweets resurfaced that were thought to be racist and sexist. Noah said it best in an interview with Entertainment Weekly where he said, "If you look back three years, and you're not disappointed in who you were then, you're not progressing."

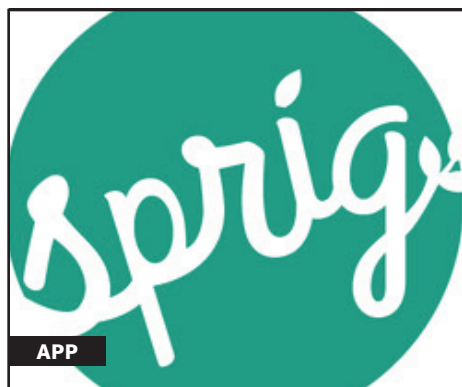
#### Coverage of current events:

Sometimes it seems like the only news covered is bad news, and while Noah covers the same news as major media outlets, he can tastefully bring comedy and perspective to current events.

#### Noah's dimples:

I would watch the show just for those dimples. They make an appearance on the show every time Noah laughs at one of his own jokes. They are God's gift to humanity.





## “SPRIG”



» DOMINIQUE JACKSON  
METRO REPORTER

“Sprig” is a food services delivery app promising to have food in your mouth in 15 minutes after ordering. Debuting in Chicago in June, it offers healthy, organic food options and updates its menu daily. Its menu includes curried chicken wraps with cashew sauce, seasonal fruit and goat cheese kale salad, and chipotle pork mac and cheese and zucchini peppers.

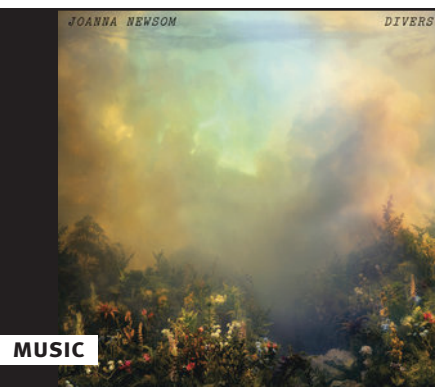


## “I’LL SHOW YOU” BY JUSTIN BIEBER



» LAUREN KOSTIUK  
CAMPUS REPORTER

Bieber’s “I’ll Show You” music video followed his previous video hit video “What Do You Mean?” The clips show Bieber frolicking through lush, green mountains and sitting on the edge of a cliff, rolling down hills and skateboarding on top of an abandoned airplane. I really dig how Bieber is getting in touch with his emotional side, but I do miss his sexy shirtless scenes.

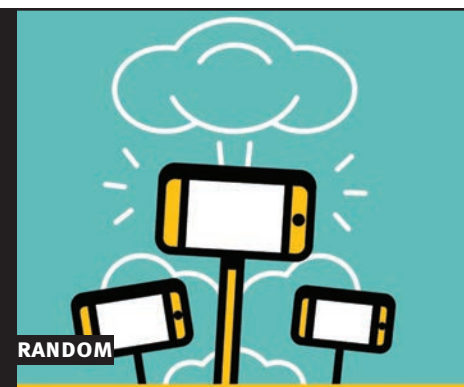


## DIVERS BY JOANNA NEWSOM



» ARIEL PARELLA-AURELI  
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

When my friend Spencer told me about Joanna Newsom’s new album, I was skeptical, but after listening to it three times straight, the singer’s unusually scratchy voice has grown on me. The album’s twinkling piano sounds create vivid images that stick in my mind. When you need to close in from the world, *Divers* can help. My personal favorite is “Sapokanikan.”



## THE ATLANTIC’S SILICON VALLEY INSIDERS POLL



» ABBY SEITZ  
OPINIONS EDITOR

This second annual poll gathered data from tech executives, providing unique perspectives into the future of the apps and websites we use most. The poll also provided insight into life as a tech VIP—37 percent of those surveyed said HBO’s *Silicon Valley* captures the culture of the industry best, and nearly 1 in 5 said they work too many hours to count.



## “AUTODESK PIXLR”



» MCKAYLA BRAID  
METRO REPORTER

“Autodesk Pixlr” is an app that lets you edit pictures taken on a phone. I appreciate the healing brush, much like the one on Photoshop. The app also has some weird frames that can be added and some of the vintage inspired filters that just look strange. Most of the filters are unique, but something cool that was added is a ‘made with Pixlr’ feed where users can see what kinds of edits are being made by other users.



## BERNIE SANDERS DANCES TO “HOTLINE BLING”



» MEGAN BENNETT  
CAMPUS EDITOR

The new—and now only—criteria I am looking for in a president is the ability to dance to a Drake song. Democratic hopeful Bernie Sanders did not disappoint when he took to “The Ellen Show” to jam to “Hotline Bling”—which, by the way, is not the first YouTube video I’ve seen him dancing in. Hillary, please step up your game if you want to win this election because the world’s hippest grandpa is winning me over.



## “PLAY TO STAY” BY NOAH GUNDERSEN



» FRANK ENYART  
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

Seattle folk artist Noah Gundersen released a new song Nov. 1 as part of Renaissance Hotel’s “Play to Stay” competition—a solo acoustic song called “Bad Desire.” The video is as hauntingly beautiful as the song itself. Simple chord changes and dim lighting highlight Gundersen’s powerful and nuanced style, which blends lilting falsetto with gritty full vocal parts and has become a wonderful mainstay of Gundersen’s work.



## CHICAGO’S BIZARRE FALL WEATHER



» ABBY SEITZ  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Last fall, I can clearly recall breaking out my heavy-duty coat and trudging through Arctic conditions weekly. This year, I have yet to see a flurry. The warm temperatures are difficult to dress for when the majority of my wardrobe accommodates a Chicago winter. It’s also incredibly challenging to thoroughly enjoy a peppermint or gingerbread Starbucks drink in 60-degree weather.





# Plan to end over-testing needs more action

Since the implementation of mandatory standardized tests through No Child Left Behind in 2001, over-testing has become a concern for parents, teachers and students across the nation.

The average student takes 112 standardized tests between preschool and grade 12, according to a 2015 study by the Council of the Great City Schools. Eighth-graders spend an average of 25.3 hours taking standardized tests during the school year, according to the study, which did not include optional tests, like Advanced Placement or technical tests, and the time spent to prepare for standardized tests.

In a video posted to The White House's Facebook page Oct. 24, President Barack Obama addressed over-testing

in America, calling for standardized tests to meet three requirements: tests should be worth taking, enhance teaching and learning and provide an all-around evaluation of student and school performance. Obama's bold stance was surprising, considering his past record of supporting standardized testing through Common Core, a nationalized curriculum that relies heavily on standardized testing to measure student success.

Obama's requests were welcomed by the U.S. Department of Education through the Testing Action Plan, released the same day. The plan outlines promises of financial support for states to develop more meaningful assessments for measuring student success and guidance for school districts and states about reductions in testing, successful models across the

country and more transparent teacher assessments. It also recommends that states not allow students to spend more than 2 percent of their classroom time taking mandated standardized tests and calls on Congress to enforce that cap.

Enforcing a test-taking cap would do little aside from limiting the time students spend filling in bubbles. Less time spent taking tests does not change the quality or the purposefulness of any standardized test, nor does it change how much classroom time is devoted to test preparation.

One of the most prevalent concerns of teachers is that standardized tests have hijacked their freedom in developing lesson plans. In a 2003 study by the Center for the Study of Testing, Evaluation and Educational Policy, 44 percent of teachers reported spending more than 30 hours of classroom time during the school year preparing students for state-mandated exams. Thirteen percent said they spent 21–30 hours on test prep. Rather than engaging students in the exciting aspects of learning, teachers are forced to use valuable instruction time to teach test-taking strategies, such as process of elimination and correctly filling in a bubble.

The extensive cooperation and

communication proposed in the plan among the Department of Education, states and school districts is important to reducing over-testing and moving forward in the future. However, most of the Testing Action Plan does not have any immediate impact on school districts and states that do not prioritize addressing over-testing.

The plan outlines several states and school districts that have previously taken the initiative to go beyond standardized testing to assess achievements by both teachers and students. Two counties in Florida have drastically eliminated redundant testing. In Tennessee, some school districts have incorporated portfolios as a mechanism to measure student growth and learning. Educators in Massachusetts are assessed using a matrix evaluation system incorporating—but not solely focused on—student learning.

Increasing funding through the Testing Action Plan is important to ensure all school districts across America have the opportunity to retool their evaluation systems. However, education policymakers should be diligent in ensuring that testing is necessary, purposeful and avoids redundancy and that it allows teachers more freedom with curricula and students the opportunity to enjoy learning.

# South Loop development must not displace students

The Museum Campus, Grant Park and Soldier Field have long attracted tourists. However, some developers would like to see the visitors extend their stays as temporary or permanent residents. In recent months, several large hotels and high-rise apartment buildings have been proposed for development in the city's South Loop. Many of the projects have the potential to alter Chicago's skyline, with proposals ranging from two nearly 50-story condominium buildings to an 86-story skyscraper that would be the

sixth-tallest building in Chicago, according to an Oct. 2 Chicago Tribune article.

The projects are in the planning stages and have yet to obtain city approval, as reported by The Chronicle on Page 34. If greenlighted, the buildings would add a combined 2,500–5,000 units, which could attract thousands of residents to the South Loop.

Meanwhile, annual events at Grant Park and Soldier Field can draw thousands of visitors to the South Loop. Each time there is a festival or concert in the neighborhood,

its streets are impossible to navigate while the Roosevelt and Harrison Red Line stops become equally cramped. The city must be able to accommodate the large influx of residents and park visitors to avoid a permanent panic similar to that following a crowded One Direction concert.

More traffic and increased population density would easily affect the ease of navigation around campus for Columbia students, as most of the projects are within a block of many Columbia buildings and dormitories. However, one project in particular could impact students the most.

Oxford Capitol Development, which acquired the Essex Inn at 800 S. Michigan Ave. in late 2014, has unveiled a plan with Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture to renovate the hotel. A parking garage would be revamped into a 54-story, 454-unit

apartment building that would be built beside the renovated Essex Inn and two doors down from the old Johnson Publishing Building, which was purchased by the college in 2010 and could be used by the college in the future.

The Essex project could also block the lake and city views for Columbia students housed in The Flats, 829 S. Wabash Ave. Towering skyscrapers could also affect sunlight in the neighborhood. These are typical complaints echoed by residents in any neighborhood experiencing development, but it will still affect students and the campus community, as will the sudden influx of new residents and tourists. Development and expansion are inevitable, but the city should be willing to accommodate and work with local councils and organizations to reduce congestion and traffic in the area.

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Did you catch a mistake, think we could have covered a story better or have strong beliefs about an issue that faces all of us here at Columbia?

Why not write a letter to the editor? At the bottom of Page 2, you'll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. Let us hear from you.  
**—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board**





COMMENTARY

## ‘Chi-raq’ trailer spikes concern

» **ABBY SEITZ**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Filmmaker Spike Lee has devoted his career to making socially conscious films examining race relations and urban issues. Lee’s upcoming film, “Chi-raq,” set to be released Dec. 4, is a fictional tale about the gang and gun violence plaguing Chicago’s South and West Sides. Set in the Englewood neighborhood, the story is based on the Greek play “Lysistrata,” by Aristophanes, in which women withhold sex from their husbands to force them to peacefully end the Peloponnesian War.

“Chi-raq’s” two-and-a-half minute trailer, released Nov. 3, suggests we have little to look forward to in the way of a serious discussion of gang violence.

Early scenes show Samuel L. Jackson, who looks into the camera and cheerfully says, “Welcome to Chi-raq, the land of pain, misery and strife.” Throughout the trailer, Jackson’s character is presented with a skip in his step and a smile on his face.

Teyonah Parris plays Lysistrata, a young woman who rallies her friends and neighbors to deny sex to their gang-affiliated

lovers to “make sure these fools put down these guns.” At one point, a man is shown at a nightclub proclaiming, “The situation is out of control because I am in front of an empty stripper pole.”

Such scenes furnish little hope the movie will actually portray the devastating conditions in Englewood and on the South Side accurately and in a manner that resonates with viewers.

The film drew criticism from Mayor Rahm Emanuel and other city officials who have cited concerns it could hurt Chicago’s tourism and international image.

Between the NFL Draft, the Cubs play-off run and Giuliana Rancic’s Instagram account, the city’s tourism will likely remain stable, but the real issue is not about tourism, nor is it about how the film could hurt Chicago’s worldwide reputation.

This is about 9-year-old Tyshawn Lee, who was shot and killed on the South Side hours after the trailer was released. This is about the 2,582 Chicagoans who have been shot and the 434 homicides in 2015 as of press time. This is about how systematic

racism, gentrification and failing inner city schools ensure it will take more than “taking away guns,” as the girlfriends in the trailer say, to reduce the endless cycle of gang and gun violence that is painfully—and disproportionately—more prevalent in the city’s poorest neighborhoods.

The only glimmer of hope for some serious dialogue occurs in the second half of the trailer, which shows glimpses of a Black Lives Matter march, anti-gun violence protests and funerals.

The presentation of the topic of Chicago’s gun violence in the trailer is clearly an artistic attempt at making a complex issue digestible for Lee’s worldwide audience that does not see daily headlines on their local news about how many were shot overnight. However, the misguided idea that the root of “Chi-raq’s” violence is gun accessibility and the trailer’s constant comedic relief make it difficult to believe the movie will be as enlightening, informative or meaningful as it could be.

aseitz@chroniclemail.com

STUDENT POLL

*Are students informed about the presidential candidates?*

*To an extent, yes. I think it’s important for students to stay informed through social media.*



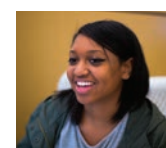
**CYNTHIA RANGEL**  
sophomore design major



**DOMINIC LEON**  
senior photo major

*A lot of people are jumping onto Bernie [Sanders] or Donald Trump because they’re icons or popular figures rather than politicians.*

*I’m not. What I see on social media are snippets of a whole conversation and that’s what I make my judgments off of.*



**RYANNE WESLEY**  
senior fashion studies major



COMMENTARY

## Sanders’ appeal should be based on platform, not trends

» **GRETCHEN STERBA**  
METRO REPORTER

With the 2016 presidential election heating up, articles about rival Democratic Party candidates Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton are flooding Twitter timelines and Facebook newsfeeds. According to an Oct. 29 Huffington Post 2016 National Democratic Primary poll, Clinton was leading the polls with 56.4 percent support, while Sanders stood at 31.1 percent.

Clinton may be ahead in the polls, but Sanders has experienced a larger surge in social media attention from young voters. With 2,337,429 likes as of Nov. 6, on his U.S. Senator Facebook page, he boasts a larger following than Clinton and Republican candidate Jeb Bush combined.

Sanders’ positions appeal greatly to college-aged students, including proposing free college tuition at public institutions and raising the minimum wage to \$15 over the next several years.

To the average liberal college student, these campaign promises would make America a better nation. However, President Barack

Obama also proposed some of these changes during his first campaign.

Like Sanders, Obama is pro-choice, and made that known during his 2008 presidential campaign. Still, the House voted Sept. 18 to defund \$500 million from Planned Parenthood, one of the most notable nonprofit organizations researching and giving advice on contraception, family planning and reproductive problems in the nation. The president wants change, but Congress might not, and hopeful young voters might not realize the hurdles a president must overcome to implement his agenda when they see Sanders campaigning for issues that matter to them.

In a 2012 study conducted by The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, only 18–19 percent of youth voted in the 2012 election, which turned out to be the lowest youth turnout rate in a federal election. So why does Sanders have so many young supporters?

Only a small percentage of young people actually vote, but Sanders is

trending with millennial voters because he is a hot topic on social media with his play-on-words catchphrases like “Feel the Bern,” and viral videos, such as a parody to “Hotline Bling” that debuted on The Ellen Show. Young people are at the root of technology, where Sanders is thriving because he seems “cool” and is so far left on the political spectrum that many young voters agree with him.

Millennials are vocal in their support for Sanders, but statistics show younger voters are generally less informed. According to a 2012 survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, older voters are generally more informed about the election compared to voters under the age of 35. The millions of U.S. voters ages 18–29 have the power to make a change, whether by voting for Sanders or whomever else they choose. However, millennials should make sure their votes are educated rather than based on popularity and the flow of current trends.

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(From left) State Representatives Will Guzzardi and Christian Mitchell called on Gov. Bruce Rauner to eliminate tax breaks for the wealthy before a Nov. 2 protest.

# Residents protest budget impasse and cuts to funding

» **MCKAYLA BRAID**  
METRO REPORTER

**FORTY-ONE PEOPLE WERE** arrested for blocking entrances to the Chicago Board of Trade Building at 141 W. Jackson St. during a Nov. 2 protest that began at the James R. Thompson Center, according to Kristi Sanford, communications director for Fair Economy Illinois.

Protesters flooded Thompson Square, 100 W. Randolph St., holding signs urging higher taxes for the rich. Many wore T-shirts supporting their cause. TV cameras flanked the speakers at the front of the crowd while others passed out chant sheets and organized those present.

Also under fire were the state budget impasse and the lack of funding for health care, public services and higher education.

“Our governor decided he would rather destroy wages [and] protections for working people than ask his wealthy buddies to pay a fair share,” said Rep. Christian Mitchell (D-IL).

Mitchell was one of many at the protest, which he said was organized by Illinois Indiana Regional Organizing Network.

Gov. Bruce Rauner delivered his budget address Feb. 18, but the budget, which proposed deep cuts in social services, has yet to be passed.

“Far too long [the state] has been living beyond [its] means—spending money that Illinois taxpayers could not afford. This

budget is honest with the people of Illinois, and it presents an honest path forward,” Rauner said in his budget address.

Members of National Nurses United, including Martese Chism, the organization’s president also attended the protest.

“People need to realize when they give a tax break to corporations, [they] are taking money from the poor, and that’s why we’re here. We’re fed up, we’re sick and tired, and it’s time to fight back,” Chism said.

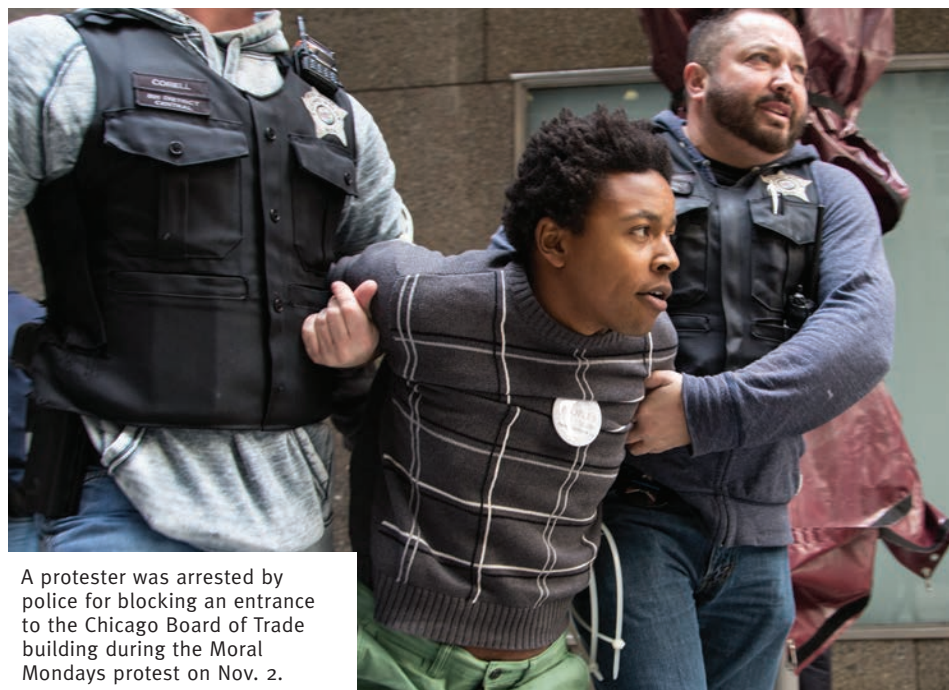
She said she thinks it is wrong for social service programs to be cut, especially those that support poor people, higher education and public transportation.

“Instead of giving tax breaks to the corporations that don’t need it, we could provide free tuition to the college kids in Illinois,” Chism said. “The government is for the people, and the funding needs to go to the people.”

National Nurses United member Romona Cetnar, who also participated in the protest, said she wants every U.S. resident to have access to basic healthcare.

“People don’t understand what they don’t get with their insurance coverage, because you’re not told—you’re not told you’re not going to get the best cancer drug and you’re not told what treatments you can’t have in the hospital,” Cetnar said.

Paul Ortiz, who protested with the Urban Village Church, said he wants increased taxes for the wealthy and more funding allocated to social services.



A protester was arrested by police for blocking an entrance to the Chicago Board of Trade building during the Moral Mondays protest on Nov. 2.

He said a few members of his church expected to get arrested at the protest and that he knew protesters would be blocking something but did not share any other details. Ortiz later confirmed that two of his friends were arrested.

Sanford added that those who were arrested for blocking the entrance to the Chicago Board of Trade building were demanding a meeting with the Board of Trade’s executive chairman Terrence Duffy.

“This is people coming together, talking to their neighbors, talking to their friends mobilizing their churches, and I couldn’t be prouder to be here,” Mitchell said.

Mitchell said he is the chief sponsor of a bill to institute a progressive income tax, meaning the taxes residents pay would increase according to their income level.

Rauner told reporters on July 8 that he

would raise the state income tax if his budget was adopted, according to a July 8 WGN-TV report.

Earlier in his Turnaround Budget address, Rauner predicted a 2016 budget hole of \$6.2 million even if his 2015 budget is adopted.

“Now is the time to start on a responsible path after years of financial recklessness,” Rauner said in his address. “Instilling discipline is not easy, saying ‘no’ is not popular, but it is now or never for Illinois.”

Mitchell said he wants Rauner to think about the harsh effects of his budget.

“I hope the governor hears loud and clear [that] the things he is doing—maybe in the abstract don’t seem to be consequential to him—but in truth, are devastating to working people,” Mitchell said.

[mbraid@chroniclemail.com](mailto:mbraid@chroniclemail.com)



# New housing proposals build excitement in South Loop

» DOMINIQUE JACKSON  
METRO REPORTER

FOUR NEW MULTI-USE projects that have been proposed for the South Loop were the subject of much discussion and debate by neighborhood residents at an event hosted by The Greater South Loop Association Nov. 2 at Vice District Brewing, 1454 S. Michigan Ave.

Both developers and architects were on hand to answer questions, according to Deborah Soehlig, president of the Greater South Loop Association.

The neighborhood association also distributed surveys for residents to share their thoughts about the four new developments, Soehlig said.

The four projects call for condo towers and other structures at 1200 S. Indiana Ave., 1326 S.

Michigan Ave., 800 S. Michigan Ave. and 1136 S. Wabash Ave., according to Josh Ellis, board member of the Greater South Loop Association.

"If there are concerns or suggestions about the new developments, I hope people share that and we can pass it on to the developers and the alderman," Ellis said.

According to Ellis, 50-60 residents attended the open house. The survey results will be released at the next State of the South Loop meeting on Nov. 21 at Overflow Coffee, 1550 S. State St.

Aaron Galvin, a managing broker and owner at Luxury Living Chicago Realty, said many residents are concerned about the traffic the new developments would bring to the neighborhood. He also said the properties must be at a realistic price for the South Loop. "The downside is that traffic

becomes a little bit challenging; parking starts to go away a little bit, but in the long run the change that is going to happen in the South Loop will be tremendously beneficial," Galvin said.

Edward Curley, an architect for Rafael Vinoly Architects, works with Crescent Heights, a luxury condominium developer that owns the 1200 S. Indiana Ave. site. He said the tower will include 76 units, with a mix of studios and one-to-three-bedroom apartments.

"It's a beautiful, iconic structure to the south end of Grant Park," Curley said.

Jessica Leo, an architect at Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture, works on the 800 S. Michigan Ave. project—currently the site of the Essex Inn—to redesign the hotel and combine it with adjacent residential housing.

"The parking lot at this location will be torn down and turned into a residential tower," Leo said. "The hotel will be renovated to offer a smaller quantity of rooms with upscale quality."

This location will offer amenities like restaurants, pools, ballrooms, bars and a fitness center.

"We want to bring an increase[d] vitality to the Essex Inn and the South Loop," Leo said.

Kristen Stanziale has been a South Loop resident for almost 12 years and works as a project manager for a liquor company. One of

Stanziale's concerns about the new developments is that it could potentially detract from small local businesses in the neighborhood.

"We could lose the opportunity to have things that are small and local, so from corner to corner, it could end up being a Jamba Juice and a



» SANTIAGO COVARRUSIAS/CHRONICLE

Residents in the South Loop mixed and mingled with developers who are bringing new buildings to the neighborhood.



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## Ron Louis

**OCCUPATION:** Fashion designer  
**NEIGHBORHOOD:** Hyde Park



» Courtesy RON LOUIS

» **GRETCHEN STERBA**  
METRO REPORTER

A typical day for Ron Louis, a rising local fashion designer, is unpredictable. He says he often wakes up thinking about colors or buildings, jotting his thoughts down or sketching them. After that, he meets with his team members from PRSVR, a high-end lifestyle brand based in Chicago with whom Louis is working to release his own in-store brand in January 2016. Louis says his next steps vary from day to day. He might have a model fitting, an interview or a fashion shoot to creatively direct. The Chronicle talked to the 22-year-old about his love of fashion, what distinguishes him from other young designers and his inspirations.

**THE CHRONICLE: When did your love of fashion begin and how did you pursue it?**

**RON LOUIS:** It started in high school, which was fashion forward. I experimented in high school at Rich Central High and took a clothing construction class [because] a girl I had liked [was in it]. But I ended up being very good at sewing, so my teacher told me I should try and pursue fashion. I could already sketch and everything.

**What are your biggest accomplishments?**

Recently, I designed for Ta’Rhonda Jones, who plays Porsha on “Empire,” and one of my designs she went out in got published in OK! Magazine. I do a lot of different designs for local Chicago celebrities like King Louie, Demi Lobo, Treezy and Tink.

**Has Chicago influenced your artistic work?**

Slightly, but what really influences me—it might sound weird—[is] Chicago architecture. I used to want to be an architect, but I wasn’t really interested in math, so I ended up going into design. I incorporate what I see in [architectural] design through clothing. When I design, I look at shapes and textures of buildings—sometimes color—and try to incorporate [them] into clothing [while trying] to make it comfortable [for the customer].

**What makes your brand unique?**

I push the boundaries between urban wear and high end. I combine them, which is my own style. I believe what we define as high end is going to become the norm and be more comfortable. These pieces

that come off the runway are going to be ready to wear, which is what I think the future is. I don’t know 100 percent what it’s going to look like, but I was one of the few that experimented to combine the two. I try to make classy pieces and not pieces where you wear it one time then [never] wear it again. That’s what my angle is.

**Do you have advice for aspiring artists or people who want to go into the fashion industry?**

I always tell people, “Find who you are within your craft.” Of course, study the techniques and all the proper terms and everything, but find who you are within your craft, which is your individuality, because none of us are the same anyway. That’s going to separate your brand from anyone else’s. But you have to pay attention to who’s influencing

you and how much influence that has on your designs. It shouldn’t look exactly like the people who inspire your brand—you want to separate yourself and be the best artist you can be.

**What are your future goals?**

I want to have a studio because I have a lot of team members doing their own thing. I have a company called COTU (Culture of the Urban) and we’re just a whole bunch of artists, but eventually we want to build a great artist community. [With this studio] I want to have gifted artists come in, like kids who maybe can’t afford art school and [they] can come in to learn. And of course I would like to have my own store. I’ve also dabbled a little bit in film, so maybe that, too.

gsterba@chroniclemail.com



# Made in Chicago Week highlights city's influential entrepreneurs

» ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI  
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

ENTREPRENEURS CELEBRATED THEIR accomplishments with General Assembly Chicago, which offers classes and workshops in business, design and technology, by ringing in the institute's first anniversary Nov. 5 at Brad's Deals, 640 N. LaSalle St.

The party kicked off General Assembly's first Made in Chicago Week, scheduled to run through Nov. 17. The week will include in-depth discussions and panels with local businesses that have influenced Chicago's culture.

Taylor Manus, General Assembly Chicago's manager of partnership and events, said she looks forward to connecting people through the workshops and discussions during Made in Chicago Week.



A crowd of entrepreneurs, General Assembly students and alumni socialized and networked Nov. 5 at Brad's Deals, 640 N. LaSalle St. where Made in Chicago Week started by celebrating General Assembly's birthday.

"[We want] to foster collaboration through conversation and learning across these topics," Manus said. "We are hoping to celebrate all the great things being made, taught and grown in Chicago. [We are]

hoping to bring together people of all backgrounds—tech, creative, food [and] media."

Chicago entrepreneur Philip Tadros, founder of Doejo and co-founder of several local coffee

shops such as Dollop, Bow Truss and Kickstand, is set to speak on a Nov. 9 panel about being a "foodpreneur." He said the inaugural event will be an opportunity to connect with many people who may need business help.

He said his entrepreneurial career has been nonstop work since it began in early 2000, but it is something he has gotten used to.

"It is rewarding because it is something you are a part of and watch grow," Tadros said. "You get better at enjoying the struggle."

Tadros said the Internet makes it easier for people to learn, create and market their products.

"[It is] allowing anybody to become an entrepreneur. It is somewhat of a rebirth," he said.

Clayton Guse, assistant editor of the TimeOut Chicago blog and neighborhood guides, noted the Internet's significant impact on the journalism industry. Guse will moderate a panel discussion on the future of media and reliance on mobile devices Nov. 10.

"Social media [is] having a huge

impact [on] digesting more news and articles through Facebook and Twitter," Guse said.

He said he is excited for the panel to shed light on these issues and talk with other professionals in the field, and it will provide a think tank discussion of where the tech industry is going in Chicago, and overall.

He said General Assembly has helped entrepreneurs with the business shift and provides access to tech education through new opportunities that are crucial.

"The role they play as educators is pretty huge," he said. "Lots of people are coming out of college with no computer science degrees, going to GA and getting the skills they need for programming."

Guse and Manus said General Assembly's Made in Chicago Week highlights Chicago's ability to keep the tech talent in the city and be known as a tech industry.

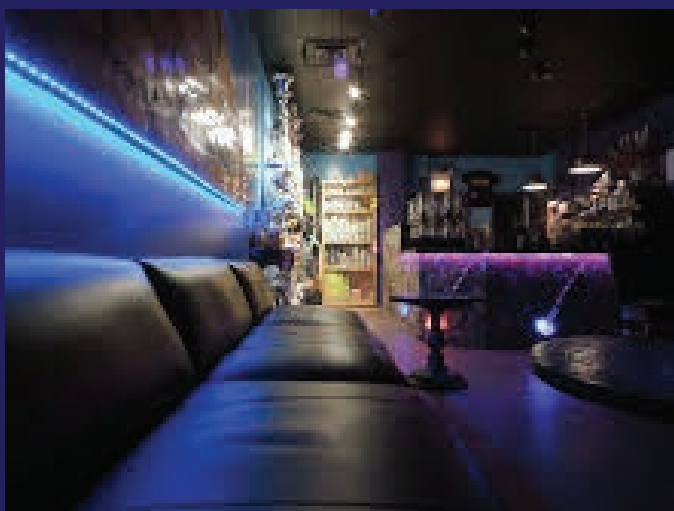
"[General Assembly] is providing a skill set for people to thrive in Chicago's booming tech industry," Guse said.

SEE MADE, PAGE 39

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**70%** of drug trafficking offenders could have penalties reduced by an average of **11 months**

**40,000** currently imprisoned offenders could be eligible to have their sentence reduced by **25 months**

» ZOË HAWORTH/CHRONICLE

## Newly reduced sentences for drug trafficking offenders in US

» MCKAYLA BRAID  
METRO REPORTER

A TOTAL OF 831 Illinois prisoners have been granted motions for reduced sentences due to recent changes in penalties for nonviolent drug trafficking offenders that have been incorporated into federal sentencing guidelines, according to U.S. Sentencing Com-

mission documents from October.

A July 18, 2014, news release from the U.S. Sentencing Commission stated the vote to amend the guidelines was unanimous and will alter sentencing guidelines so that nonviolent federal drug trafficking offenders could be eligible for reduced sentences starting this month.

"This amendment received

unanimous support from Commissioners because it is a measured approach," said Judge Patti B. Saris, chair of the Commission, in the July 18 press release. "It reduces prison costs and populations and responds to statutory and guidelines changes since the drug guidelines were initially developed, while safeguarding public safety."

Bennie Holman, chief operating officer at Community Assistance Programs, 11717 S. Halsted St., said his nonprofit employment agency works with at-risk youth, as well as ex-offenders, by offering job training and placement assistance.

Holman said he expects more people will seek help from the program as early as the next few weeks because of the motion.

The program's job readiness training includes a series of classes designed to help people transition from joblessness or incarceration to a work environment, Holman said.

After the training, the employment agency offers subsidized job training through its partnerships with established companies and businesses. Holman said the agency works to place clients in areas they are interested in.

"We do a try-before-you-buy type of program," Holman said. "[Clients] go and work for the employer for a specific amount of time and we will pay them, so the employer gets to know the employee as well as the employee gets experience by working on the job."

According to a memorandum released July 25, 2014, by the U.S. Sentencing Commission, a projected total of 36,000 prisoners will be released within the next five years, and 9,350 prisoners are projected to be released after five years.

"I would tell [people recently released from prison] to speak to their caseworker or parole officer and come for a referral to come to the Community Assistance Program and from there we can help them. Even if they do not qualify for our programs we can point them in the right direction," Holman said.

Michael Santos, who served 26 years in prison after being convicted for trafficking cocaine, now works as a prison consultant in California helping people across the country prepare for their time in prison.

Santos also hosts a podcast called "Earning Freedom," which he uses as a platform to speak to formerly incarcerated people who became successful after leaving prison.

Santos said his podcast can be a resource for people aiming for success after prison.

SEE PRISON, PAGE 39

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MORE ARTISTS TO BE



# Aldermen to limit food cart operations

» DOMINIQUE JACKSON  
METRO REPORTER

**COMING ON THE** heels of the City Council's legalization of food carts on Sept. 24, Alderman Brendan Reilly (42nd Ward) and Alderman Tom Tunney (44th Ward) have succeeded in implementing restrictions on where food cart vendors can operate. According to Hilary Gowins, managing editor for the Illinois Policy Institute, Tunney and Reilly cite public safety as a reason to restrict food cart operations in their wards.

Hours after the City Council's Sept. 24 action, Reilly and Tunney introduced opt-out amendments to the ordinance that would allow them to ban food carts in high traffic areas of their wards, according to a Crain's Chicago Business article of the same date.

The City Council license committee approved the ordinances on Oct. 27, according to a Chicago Sun-Times article appearing the same day.

"It's really unfortunate that so soon after giving people the freedom to operate their businesses, the aldermen already want to take back what they are able to do," Gowins said.

Both Reilly and Tunney were unavailable for comment, as of press time. There are 1,500 food cart vendors in Chicago, and starting Nov. 13, food cart owners can apply for licenses, according to Gowins.

Out of the 50 largest cities in the nation, Chicago was one of two that refused to license food carts, according to Stacy Massey, community relations manager for the Institute for Justice Clinic on Entrepreneurship. Before



legalization, food cart vendors would have to worry about being ticketed and fined by the police, according to Massey.

Gowins said it is too early to determine the impact of legalizing food carts, but research released by Illinois Policy Institute suggests it is promising because of the jobs it will create.

The report was released by Michael Lucci and Gowins Aug. 21, outlining the benefits of allowing food carts to operate in the city,

suggesting they could create 6,000 new jobs in Chicago. It also said more than 1,500 food cart vendors in Chicago serve around 50,000 meals a day to consumers.

"We have every reason to believe that the industry is going to boom here in Chicago," Gowins said.

Teresa Vergra-Miranda, a Brighton Park resident, said she eats at food carts offering Mexican street food about twice a week.

"My parents are from Mexico, and we eat at [food carts] after

church because it reminds them of Mexico—it reminds us of home," Vergra-Miranda said.

Vergra-Miranda also said she thinks obstruction of streets by food carts will not be a public safety concern.

"There is enough sidewalk for everyone," Vergra-Miranda said.

Chassity Santiago, a server at Salt & Pepper Diner in Wrigleyville, said she does not think food carts threaten her restaurant's business because there are already many other choices in the area.

"The food in this neighborhood [Wrigleyville] is so diverse.... I don't think it would have much of an impact," Santiago said.

Santiago said she agrees food carts should be restricted from certain locations on crowded game days in Wrigleyville to avoid worsening traffic.

"The ordinance puts food carts and brick-and-mortar restaurants on an even playing field," Gowins said. "There is plenty of business for both to survive and thrive."

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HOUSING, FROM PAGE 34



Gap, and that would be horrific," Stanziale said.

Tim Shields is a representative of Murphy Asset Management, a development company working on the property at 1326 S. Michigan Ave.

According to Shields, this location will become a 500-unit apartment tower. Shields said 60 percent of the building will become one-bedroom apartments, and about 20 percent will be two-bedroom apartments.

"It's really geared toward smaller units, and hopefully a more affordable retail price point for this neighborhood," Shields said.

Rent will be approximately \$1,800 to \$3,000 a month, according to Shields.

Overall, attendees at the event were optimistic and curious about the new developments coming to the neighborhood.

Ellen Lorden, a South Loop resident, said she is excited about the new developments but wants the developers to keep families in mind while proposing projects.

"I would love [to live in] a

neighborhood that supports young children, old people and everyone in between," Lorden said.

Keith Giles, a developer for 1136 S. Wabash Ave., said the project will offer 330 units.

According to Giles, the units will consist of micro-apartments at 500 square feet for about \$2,000 a month. Giles said residents could expect to see the completed project by the end of 2017.

The four projects would be completed within the next three years, Galvin said.

Matthew Young, a commercial real estate worker, said he spends his free time in the South Loop and has heard many concerns about the traffic the new development could bring to the area.

However, he said he does not think it will be a huge problem.

"If you're concerned about whether you can get home [in] 15 minutes, you probably should not be living in the South Loop. You should move to the suburbs where you don't have worry about high rise buildings," Young said.

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MADE, FROM PAGE 36



Marissa Arnold, senior director of communications and public relations at General Assembly in New York, said the institution aims to provide access to opportunities that build skills and confidence for individuals or growing companies through workshops, events and various classes.

"As companies continue to grow and foster their digital team, they need a workforce to support that," Arnold said. "General Assembly is a big part of that equation by helping people pursue what they love."

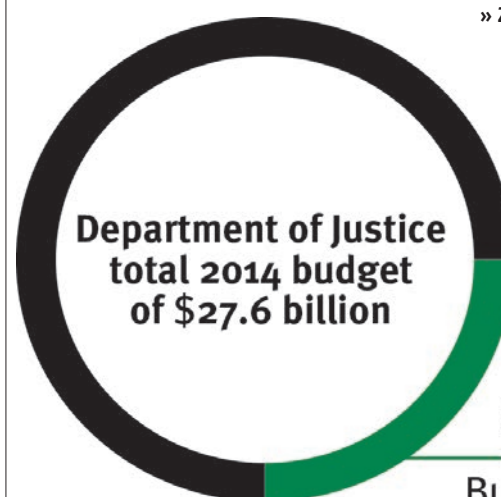
Guse said he is curious to see where the media industry is heading in the future, as it is something that needs to be addressed.

"That MAC is going to be here highlights that Chicago is becoming that kind of town, and there are a lot of resources for start-ups and entrepreneurs here."

*For a complete list of Made in Chicago events, visit [Blog.GeneralAssembly.com](http://Blog.GeneralAssembly.com)/Made-In-Chicago-Week.*

[aparrella@chroniclemail.com](mailto:aparrella@chroniclemail.com)

» ZOË HAWORTH/CHRONICLE



PRISON, FROM PAGE 37



"I think it's a great start, and I think we can go a lot further," Santos said about the reduction of sentences for nonviolent drug traffickers.

He said emerging from prison and rejoining society is difficult but possible and advises self-discipline, cutting ties with people who are participating in criminal activity and focusing on the future.

"They will face challenges with networking and if they are not

very well prepared, they will face challenges in explaining their past in a manner that society will be able to digest," Santos said. "Many people learn how to live in prison, and the longer they learn to live in prison, the more challenges you have learning to adjust in society."

For more information on services available to former prisoners who need help finding work, visit [CapsInc.org](http://CapsInc.org).

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